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New gun law to be in force this autumn

By Philip Webster, Carole Midgley and Richard Ford

TIGHTER controls on the licensing of handguns are expected to be in force within months in the wake of the Dunblane tragedy and fresh concerns yesterday about a runaway schoolboy alleged to have stolen rifles and pistols from a pensioner's home.

Lord Cullen's inquiry into the Dunblane massacre is expected to report within three months, and its findings will be taken alongside those of a Home Office inquiry into firearms law to form the basis of new measures to be included in a criminal justice Bill by the autumn.

These are, however, unlikely to include the ban on keeping firearms in private homes that many MPs want.

The Government has made plain that it wants to avoid a kneejerk response and Michael Howard has decided against tabling his own proposals until after Lord Cullen has reported.

But some Home Office sources say that calls for speedier action may prove hard to resist and the pressure intensified yesterday with the arrest in Buckinghamshire of 14-year-old Robert Crawley and a 16-year-old friend after a three-day police hunt. Two rifles were recovered, but two pistols taken from Peter Preston's home in Chalfont St Peter on Friday were still missing.

Teenagers regularly visited Mr Preston, a 60-year-old bachelor who is one of the country's leading marksmen, and they could have seen his collection of five rifles and two

handguns when he laid them on his bed to clean them. The guns were stored in a stainless steel cabinet with a double lock and the keys were in a boiler cupboard near by.

Friday's break-in prompted a wide search by armed police and Robert's school was closed yesterday as a precaution. Plain-clothes police patrolled three other schools at the request of the head teachers. Robert, whose parents were with him as police questioned him after his arrest at a house in High Wycombe yesterday, is now thought likely to face charges.

The case is bound to fuel the anti-gun lobby's concerns about where firearms are kept, but ministers are expected to opt for tougher licensing controls rather than impose a total ban on individual possession of such weapons.

One senior MP said: "If people living in vulnerable circumstances feel they need a gun, they will have one. And provided they get it under

properly licensed circumstances they should have it. A total ban would send the whole trade underground."

Mr Howard is also understood to have strong misgivings about the idea that weapons should be held at gun clubs, fearing that they might be stolen by criminals and terrorists—a view shared by Michael Colvin, the Conservative MP who is president of the Westminster shooting club.

Mr Colvin said there was no case for wholesale reform of a law that had been changed after the Hungerford massacre in 1987. But ministers believe that vetting procedures for issuing firearms certificates can be improved and Labour is likely to back measures that put the onus on applicants to show that they need a gun.

Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, said that tougher controls were needed, although he would not support a ban on handguns that would leave Britain unable to compete in international shooting events.

Mr Howard's cautious approach did not, however, satisfy his former Cabinet colleague David Mellor, who attacked the "forces of procrastination" as he renewed his call for a fundamental overhaul of the gun law.

The "total intransigence" of the existing controls and the need for immediate legislation had again been highlighted by events in Buckinghamshire.

As he spoke, Thames Valley



Winnie Mandela, left, who "cannot afford her own lifestyle", and President Mandela at a press conference before the divorce hearing

I was the loneliest man, says Mandela

FROM INIGO GILMORE IN JOHANNESBURG

NELSON MANDELA told his divorce hearing yesterday that he had been "the loneliest man" during the two years he lived with his wife Winnie after his release from prison.

South Africa's 77-year-old President told the Rand Supreme Court that he was determined to rid himself of a woman whose infidelities had caused him embarrassment.

Making a surprise appearance, Mr Mandela, wearing a sombre grey three-piece suit that matched his grim demeanour, said he regretted having to explain in public why his marriage had broken down irretrievably.

Glancing towards the judge he said in a sad voice, at times barely

audible in the hushed courtroom: "Ever since I came back from prison, not once has the defendant ever entered our bedroom whilst I was awake."

"The bedroom is where a man and woman discuss the most intimate details and problems. There are so many things I wanted to discuss with her, but she is the type of person who fears confrontation. I was the loneliest man during the period I spent with her."

Seated at a long wooden table his estranged wife, elegantly attired in gold and black, did not look up once during his testimony, but stared into her lap or scribbled.

Earlier, Mr Mandela had spoken of his affection for the wife who bore him two

daughters and with whom he shared many of his happiest days. But he said the marriage now existed "only on paper".

President Mandela, who began divorce proceedings four years after separating, had never previously spoken publicly of his problems.

Recalling how a newspaper editor approached him in 1992 with a letter confirming rumours about his wife's infidelity, he named Dali Mpofu, a young lawyer from the African National Congress, as his wife's lover. He said he had been forced to reveal the details to counter his wife's claim that there were other reasons for the divorce.

Mrs Mandela's lawyers had suggested that there were "somewhat slight tensions" between the couple arising

from her 1991 trial for kidnapping the 14-year-old ANC activist Stompie Moeketsi Seipei, who was murdered after being taken to her house in Soweto.

Ismael Semanya, one of her lawyers, called for a postponement because there had been no mediation as prescribed by customary law. When it came to fidelity, he added, perhaps Mr Mandela was not altogether pure.

But Mr Mandela said he had wanted to end the marriage much earlier, but had stood by his wife because he did not want the world to think they were separating over the Stompie case. He stood by her innocence.

Speaking in stern tones, he said: "If the entire universe persuaded me to reconcile

with the defendant I would not of this marriage."

The couple were married in 1958, when he was 41 and she was 25. Yesterday, save for a curt handshake, they could not even look each other in the eye.

Mrs Mandela is seeking half of her husband's assets. The judge ruled that more time should be given on her counter-claim over a financial settlement and that she should be advised of the full extent of the President's assets while the hearings proceed.

Mrs Mandela is known to be heavily in debt. Mr Mandela's affidavit referred to her financial problems, saying: "She cannot afford her own lifestyle."

Going public, page 10



Cullen: swift report

Bill to safeguard building societies

Predators hunting for a building society to boost their corporate expansion plans will be thwarted by legislation to protect societies wishing to retain their mutual status.

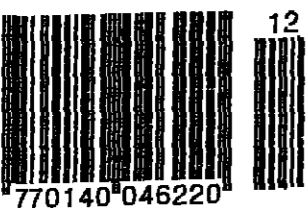
Angela Knight, Economic Secretary to the Treasury, announced a draft Building Societies Bill to "ring-fence" two societies that are proposing to merge against outside bids. Page 25

Islanders moved before war games

China and Taiwan evacuated residents from small islands where Peking was due to start new land, sea and air exercises. Taipei said it thought bad weather had delayed the manoeuvres, which are designed to influence Saturday's presidential elections in Taiwan. Pages 11, 17

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Yorkshire Water 'thought of evacuating Bradford'

By Paul Wilkinson

YORKSHIRE WATER considered evacuating almost a million people from the Bradford area as their taps threatened to run dry during last summer's drought, an inquiry was told yesterday.

City planners said the company told them that the huge tanking operation might not meet demand. If the reservoirs in the Pennines failed, people would have to be moved, the inquiry into the company's role heard.

Ann Beattie, an emergency planning officer with Bradford City Council, said in a written submission: "At meetings on August 3 and 11 with Yorkshire Water, staff were told that tanking would not help because too many tank-

ers would be needed to have any effect. In the event of the reservoirs running dry, the only possible outcome was that Yorkshire Water would



be looking to the local authorities to evacuate the area."

Peter Bowler, of the pressure group Water Watch, said: "Where did Yorkshire Water think people would go? The entire population of Bradford could not stay with [Yorkshire Water chairman] Trevor Newton's mother-in-law." The quip was a reference to Mr Newton's claim that he was saving water by not bathing, which was shown to be misleading as he was showering at his in-laws' home outside the area.

Last night Yorkshire Water denied there were ever any plans to evacuate large areas of Bradford, Calderdale and Kirklees and said it was asking Bradford Council to substantiate its remarks.

Beef war likely in row over hormones

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN BRUSSELS

THE scene was set yesterday for a "beef war" over growth hormones pitting America against Europe after European Union ministers overruled British objections and toughened controls on imports.

The decision by farm ministers will ensure that Washington goes ahead with proceedings against the EU at the World Trade Organisation on the grounds that it is illegally blocking imports.

The Americans cite scientific evidence, some produced by the EU Commission itself, which shows that naturally-produced growth-promoting hormones in meat do no harm to human health.

Tony Baldry, Britain's deputy agriculture minister,

backed the American argument, but all other EU states sided with the Commission argument that approval of hormone use, banned since 1988, would cause a consumer backlash.

Allowing hormones, they said, would damage the industry further when it is already suffering from the scare over BSE, the so-called mad cow disease.

There are to be tighter controls on farmers and slaughterhouses found to be handling hormone-treated beef. The crackdown follows the emergence of an active "hormone mafia" which has used violence against campaigners. A prominent Belgian vet was murdered last year.

Soap opera Australian-speak raises the tone

By Dominic Kennedy, Social Affairs Correspondent

YOUNG Britons are adopting a pattern of speech that makes them sound more like Australians.

Their tone of voice rises towards the end of a sentence, as if an unanswered question were left hanging. To the ears of the older generation, it can jar because the intonation appears to be in the wrong place.

Language academics and voice coaches are divided about the reasons for the growing trend. Soap operas, a

desire to be egalitarian, or a lack of confidence among young speakers have all been blamed.

Barbara Bradford, author of *Intonation in Context*, has studied the voices of English people aged under 26. She gives as an example the sentence "The cat sat on the mat". Most older Britons would lower their tone on the word "mat" because they are imparting information. Many young people would now use a rising tone for "mat".

It is a pattern of speech similar to the traditional accents of parts of Australia and New Zealand, as well as

Liverpool and Northern Ireland. The huge popularity among young viewers of the Australian soap operas *Neighbours* and *Home and Away* and the Liverpoolian *Brookside* is one possible source of the trend.

Ms Bradford, of the School of Oriental and African Studies in London, has another theory. She argues that young people feel uncomfortable with the implied superior status of being a giver of information. Using the rising tone avoids this.

"It makes it sound like you are asking a question but you are making people able to agree, like 'We both

know this, don't we?' You have a shared experience.

"This form of intonation is much more prevalent with young people. It gives the impression of a sort of bonding."

Patsy Rodenburg, head of voice at the Royal National Theatre, blames a lack of confidence in the young generation. Many youngsters she teaches are afraid of expressing a view with firmness and clarity. "That rising inflection is about being unsure," she said. "You make a question rather than a statement because you are scared."

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A question of heart attacks and neck pain

Westminster watchers will have noted the birth at Welsh Questions yesterday, of a new kind of "open question". The open question is the bland preliminary enquiry which conceals the backbencher's real question, his second one. Backbenchers have to do this because they are obliged to give written notice of their first question. That threatens to spoil the fun because it gives the minister time to prepare his answer. So the chair (by custom) allows the backbencher to come back for a second bite at the cherry, catching the minister off guard with a question related to the first, but for which he cannot prepare. The open

question must be so general that the minister cannot guess where it is leading; but it must relate to his responsibilities. The favourite open question asked of a Prime Minister is whether he will state his engagements for the day. He duly states them. The MP then prefaces his second question with, "In the course of a busy day, will he find time to tell us why..." To departmental ministers questions cannot be completely open, but almost so. MPs questioning the Transport Secretary can ask when he last travelled by train — leaving scope for any imaginable railway enquiry. Of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, MPs can first



MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

enquire what are the prospects for the British economy. These opening gambits are rather like asking about the weather: they break the ice, but they are dull. Until yesterday, Ministers from Wales were in dock for Questions. The first on the order paper was inquiring Simon Coombs (C. Swindon) was to ask ministers for "a statement on progress in reducing the incidence of coronary heart disease in Wales". A junior minister, Rod Richards, replied with a volley of

medical statistics. What, he wondered, would Coombs's supplementary question be? Mr Coombs asked about last Saturday's rugby match between Wales and France. Was this not a magnificent victory? Would the minister join him in congratulating the Welsh team — and, incidentally, "lending a helping hand to England, too"? What, you ask, was the link with coronary heart disease? Apparently we were to understand that hypertension and heart trouble in Wales will

have been reduced, as a result of the widespread sense of contentment which this sporting victory has brought. The next backbencher on his feet, Labour's Allan Rogers (Rhondda), understood the link perfectly. If the minister wished to achieve further "positive reductions in coronary heart disease" in Cardigan, would he please instruct the leader of the council there to drop his plans for a ban on all householding which was not for the provision of dwellings for those within 25 miles of the town, or those born within its boundaries. Fury at this plan was giving the people of Wales heart attacks, implied Rogers. Madam Speaker allowed

the discussion to move to housebuilding in Cardigan. Readers will appreciate that the precedent now lets through a whole new range of googlies to bowl at ministers. "What are the figures for insomnia, and will the Health Secretary make a statement?" — then ask about whatever it is that keeps you awake at night. The possibilities are legion. If the Government gives you a pain in the neck, the head or the backside, if ministers drive you to drink, distraction, or a peptic ulcer; if the Tories bring you out in spots or a fit of the screaming abba's, tell your MP and tell him why: you may supply the Commons's next open question.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Drug firm accused of distorting study

A British drug company was accused last night of distorting the results of a study of the AIDS drug AZT to protect its commercial interests. Scientists from the Medical Research Council who worked on the international Concorde trial of AZT say that representatives of Wellcome, the maker of the drug, attempted to delete the main conclusion of the five-year study which said the results "do not encourage the early use of AZT". The finding, published in *The Lancet* in April 1993, dashed early hopes that AZT was a breakthrough treatment. Wellcome's share price fell sharply. Professor David Warrell, chairman of the trial, said on BBC's *Panorama* the company had put pressure on the researchers to alter their report and had distorted the findings at a press conference.

Fight to contain oil spill

Emergency teams from the National Rivers Authority were fighting last night to contain the spread of hundreds of gallons of oil which spilled into the River Medway near Tonbridge, Kent. Booms were placed across the river in the centre of Tonbridge and three miles further downstream at Paddock Wood. Teams were trying to trace the source of the oil, believed to be from a factory.

New churches planned

The Church of Scotland is planning to build at least seven churches for £500,000 each despite concerns about finance. The Church's Board of National Mission proposes constructing them in new housing areas in Aberdeen, Glasgow and elsewhere. Last year, the Church had to use money from reserves to ease a funding crisis but a spokesman said there was a need for expansion.

'Lord' of Lundy leaves

A chartered accountant who was chosen to become the "lord" of Lundy when his predecessor left after an adulterous affair has resigned after eight months. Tony Blackler, from Launceston, Cornwall, whose instructions were to restore the island's image, cited "personal reasons" and a wish to further his accountancy practice. He intends to return to Launceston.

Sex-case GP suspended

A married doctor who gave drugs to a vulnerable 31-year-old patient before having sex with her during a two-year affair was suspended for 12 months by the General Medical Council. John Razzak, 41, a GP from Guernsey, was found guilty of serious professional misconduct and told that he had come close to being struck off for abusing the trust placed in him.

DIY drug author jailed

A campaigner for the legalisation of cannabis was jailed for 12 months yesterday after writing and publishing a guide on growing the drug at home. Michael Marlow, 51, unemployed, of Newnham, Gloucestershire, was convicted by Worcester Crown Court of inciting others to produce cannabis. Judge Mott told Marlow that his book was a detailed guide to break, rather than change, the law.

Tunnel pipedream

A water company is planning to import up to half a million gallons a day from France through the Channel Tunnel if supplies here are threatened by drought. The French-owned Folkestone and Dover Water Services company wants to carry out tests in which water would be pumped through the fire-fighting and cooling system mains.

Bruno returns for a rest

Frank Bruno returned to London yesterday apologising for losing his world heavyweight title to Mike Tyson but refusing to say whether he would retire from boxing. Bruno, 34, said: "I just want to go home and spend some time with my family. I want to chill out. Then I will be in a better position to say what I will do." Bruno waits, page 48

World's media leave people of Dunblane to mourn in peace

By Gillian Bowditch and Stephen Farrell

THE world's media withdrew from Dunblane yesterday after relatives asked to be left to bury their dead in peace. One reporter and one photographer from the Press Association, the national news agency, covered the first of 17 funerals to be held this week after reaching agreement with police and the families. A change in mood was evident after the Queen's visit on Sunday, which was felt should mark the end of the public mourning. Yesterday morning, Central Scotland Police dropped their plans to provide access to the funerals for newspapers, television and radio and closed a conference room that had been set up in the city centre. Stirling Royal Infirmary cancelled plans for television crews to film the recovering child victims. Michael Forsyth, the Scottish Secretary, had appealed to the media, on Sunday night, to "respect the privacy of those who are grieving so intensely. A decision by editors and broadcasters to pull back from Dunblane now would be enormously appreciated by the community and the country."

The BBC withdrew an edition of *Panorama* about the Dunblane shootings last night for fear of offending the local community. Tony Hall, managing director of BBC news and current affairs, said that the corporation did not think it right to show the programme on the day of some of the funerals.

he said. *The Times*, in common with most of the British media, immediately complied. Chief Inspector Colin Mather, head of the Central Scotland Police press team, explained the reaction his officers had observed: "The Queen's visit was the end of the public process. The feeling is that now is the time for private grief."

By the end of last Wednesday, the day of the massacre, 200 journalists from all over the world had packed into police and local authority press conferences in Dunblane. Huge satellite dishes were quickly erected for journalists to work in the streets of Stirling and Dunblane, which has a population of 7,000. One Norwegian tabloid hired an

aircraft and ran 14 pages in the next day's edition. Mr Mather said: "I appeared on television in Colombia, Canada, the USA, New Zealand, Australia and Switzerland. The Colombian presenter who conducted a telephone interview said: 'We are very sorry for you in Scotland...' Yesterday, Ben Vallance and Robert Purves, who were injured in the shootings, were released from Stirling Royal Infirmary. Another child, Ryan Liddell, is expected to be sent home from hospital in Glasgow today, leaving five children and two teachers as in-patients. A spokesman for Stirling Royal said: "Mark Mullan is continuing to make good progress. Matthew Birnie was able to get up today for the first time. Amy Hutchinson is making progress although still in traction. "On Ward 25, Eileen Harrild and Mary Blake, the two teachers, are continuing to make good progress." At the Royal Hospital for Sick Children at Yorkhill in Glasgow, Annie Adams and Coll Austin were making good progress on a general ward.

Letters, page 17



Peter Preston's gun cabinet is now empty and he does not expect to be allowed to keep firearms again

Gun law

Continued from page 1
Police were launching an investigation into how the two teenagers arrested yesterday came to know about Mr Preston's arsenal. They and their friends had for several months been frequent visitors to Mr Preston's small housing association bungalow, where they would be given tea and biscuits while they watched television. Mr Preston said last night that he would not deliberately have let the boys see his guns, but they might have seen them on his bed. They might also have seen where he kept the keys to the gun cupboard. "Children are very alert these days," he said. "I wish I had put the keys in a different place." Mr Preston has held a firearms certificate since 1959 and his security arrangements were checked by the police last December when it was due for renewal. The licence is now being held at the local police station and Mr Preston accepts that he is unlikely to get it back. "I regret that because guns are my hobby, it's what I do and I'm good at it," he said. Mr Preston was the country's top marksman in 1994 when he won a competition on behalf of the Wendover Rifle Club. Peter Hall, the match secretary, described him as a remarkable shot, but said: "He has been rather silly and careless if he allowed boys to see his guns and we shall have to review his membership." Mr Preston was a little eccentric, but not wicked.

MP shooting enthusiasts rally to deter legislation

By James Landale
POLITICAL REPORTER

SHOOTING enthusiasts in the House of Commons are preparing to counter demands for tighter gun control legislation in the wake of the Dunblane massacre. Although MPs from both sides of the Commons yesterday denied the existence of any formal gun lobby at Westminster, they said a coalition of target shooters and field sportsmen

would emerge if calls for a ban on handguns gain ground. They warned ministers against formulating ill-thought-out legislation in a "knee-jerk reaction" to Dunblane. Sir Jerry Wiggin, Tory MP for Weston-super-Mare and chairman of the British Shooting Sports Council, said the umbrella group, which represents various sports shooting organisations, would meet soon to consider any threat from tighter legislation. "We will watch the whole

situation with great care because there are so many madmen shouting wild things about it and we want to make sure that the Government takes a sensible view," he said. Last night the council issued a statement expressing its "revulsion" at the killings but added that "until the full facts of the case are revealed it is impossible to form any useful judgment or even identify issues which, with certainty, might be relevant". Sir Jerry said there was no

formal gun lobby at Westminster. "There is just a gun fraternity," he said. Sir Hector Monro, the former Scottish Office Minister and former president of the National Small-bore Rifle Association, also rejected the idea of a gun lobby. "An organised gun lobby is an exaggeration," he said. "If legislation comes, there will be various groups of people outside the House who will try to interest us. But we are not

a lobby in an organised sense." Martyn Jones, Labour MP for Clwyd South West and one of the few Opposition members of the Westminster Shooting Club, said the idea of a gun lobby was "a load of nonsense." He added: "The papers are talking about it as if we have a gun lobby like in the States where the National Rifle Association is immensely powerful. We just simply don't have that in the House of Commons. It is absolute rot."

Tories urge free vote to keep Clarke on board

By Philip Webster, Nicholas Wood and Arthur Leatherly



Clarke unhappy at currency referendum

SENIOR Conservatives are trying to head off a Cabinet split over Europe by urging John Major to announce that MPs would be given a free vote if a Tory Cabinet were to decide in the next Parliament that Britain should go into a single currency. In an attempt to heal the differences between Kenneth Clarke and a handful of colleagues on the one hand and a majority of Cabinet ministers on the other, the Tories are proposing that a referendum would take place only if the Cabinet of the day and Parliament, on a free vote, had backed British entry. However, Cabinet ministers would be bound by collective responsibility to support the decision to which they had put their names. The compromise is being urged on Mr Major after repeated suggestions that the Chancellor is deeply unhappy about proposals for a referendum, expected to be agreed by the Cabinet over the next two weeks. Some have hinted that he would quit rather than go along with the plan, although his closest friends deny any such intention. A big backstage effort is proceeding to keep Mr Clarke on board. He is at present on a trip to South Africa, but it is understood that the paper being drawn up by Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, on the implications of a referendum will be faxed to him shortly. Mr Rifkind and senior Whitehall officials moved yesterday to placate Euro-sceptic Tories by insisting that the

Government would be bound by the outcome of a referendum. Fears had been sparked by Mr Rifkind's remark on Sunday that the plebiscite might be "advisory". But officials said that the Foreign Secretary had been alluding to a "technical issue... for the sake of completeness". One aide added: "Mr Rifkind thinks that if there is a referendum, it will be politically binding." Mr Rifkind told MPs it was "entirely incorrect" to interpret his weekend remarks as suggesting that a referendum might be ignored. He insisted he had only been listing the issues that needed to be addressed before deciding whether to hold a referendum. "That was immediately interpreted in certain quarters as indicating a preference for one form over the other." "It has been assumed to be constitutionally necessary for the legal status of a referendum to be advisory because that would otherwise conflict

with the sovereignty of Parliament, but governments have always indicated in advance that they would in practice accept the outcome of the referendum. It has been the practice in all previous referendums." Mr Major has yet to make a final decision but there were indications yesterday that he will insist shortly that all Cabinet ministers would have to toe the majority line on a single currency. That would be welcomed by Mr Clarke and his supporters, as would the proposal that the referendum could only be held after an unfettered decision by MPs to back entry. Mr Clarke and other Cabinet ministers have been opposed to any procedure that would undermine the sovereignty of Parliament. While a referendum result would prove decisive, the Clarke camp believes that the public would fall into line behind Cabinet and Parliamentary assent to a single currency. The threat to Tory party unity posed by the euro was highlighted yesterday by John Redwood, the former Cabinet minister. He said on BBC Radio that MPs had not been elected to Parliament to "give the country away". Later, in a speech to foreign exchange dealers, Mr Redwood claimed that the driving force behind economic and monetary union was a "wish to create a country called Europe, whatever the price". But the costs would be high in terms of lost jobs and economic misery. He estimated that taxes would have to go up by 8p in the pound to help meet a bill for another £10 billion in Britain's contribution to the EU budget.

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'Man of vision' fiddled school fees

Gambling debts led to downfall of navy commander

By MICHAEL EVANS DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

A ROYAL NAVY commander described as a natural leader and a man of vision was addicted to gambling and stole money to meet debts of £20,000, a court martial was told yesterday.

Commander Graham Woodworth, 38, who served as meteorological officer on the aircraft carrier HMS Ark Royal, admitted eight charges, including stealing £2,655 by claiming lodging allowance for a house in Muswell Hill in north London when he was commuting to the Ministry of Defence each day from his married quarters in Portsmouth.

He also admitted four charges of misappropriation, involving more than £12,000 paid by the MoD over three years towards his children's fees at Bembridge School on the Isle of Wight and Aedyn College in Hayward's Heath, West Sussex.

Although he was entitled to a boarding school allowance, Woodworth used the cash to help to pay off his debts. He also broke one of the Royal Navy's rules by taking in a lodger at his married quarters to bring in extra cash.

The court martial at HMS Nelson in Portsmouth was told that Woodworth's financial downfall was due to an obsession with gambling. Lieutenant Commander John Flannagan, for the prosecution, told the court martial that investigators had uncovered a series of financial irregularities.



Ark Royal, in which Woodworth served

mouth. School fees, he said, were paid for his children, Stuart and Angela, both 13, and Dale, 11. The money was paid on the condition he handed it to the schools within two months of the beginning of term. But Woodworth often delayed payment for several months.

Bradley Albuery, for the defence, said: "He is a man who in his wildest dreams or nightmares could not imagine being involved in a court martial." The gambling addiction directly caused him to commit the offences. "He was born into a family which had gambling addiction in it. His father's gambling had got so bad that the matrimonial home had to be sold."

Woodworth was introduced to the "mechanics" of gambling as a student at Manchester University when he worked part-time in a bookmaker's. Now he would acknowledge he was a compulsive gambler. He admitted the problem to his wife in 1993 and also to the Navy. "He has been going to Gamblers' Anonymous since autumn 1995," Mr Albuery said.

Woodworth, who had been in the Navy for 15 years, was viewed by his peers as an officer of outstanding talent, enthusiasm and commitment. He had started a new job in the oceanographic and meteorological department at the MoD in London in autumn 1994 after serving on Ark Royal.

He had been promoted to lieutenant commander in March 1988 and to commander in December 1993. He was the first man from his era to be promoted so rapidly.

Commander David Stainsbury, from the same oceanographic department, said Woodworth was one of the few men he could call a man of vision. Appearing as a character reference, he said: "When I heard he was to be charged, I was shocked, surprised and devastated. I thought, 'Here is an able and talented man who is about to be cut down by a fatal weakness.'"

Woodworth's guilty pleas were accepted and he was sentenced to four months' imprisonment and dismissed from the Royal Navy. He was ordered to pay back the £2,600 he had stolen.

Captain Simon Goodall, president of the panel, said: "In considering sentence the court has taken into account your pleas of guilty and all that has been said so ably on your behalf. We are acutely aware of the effect of this sentence on your family but there is no escaping the fact you are the architect of your own downfall."

"You have woven a web of deceit which has entangled your family and close friends. The root cause was your addiction to gambling but this does not change the stark fact you have been dishonest and the service depends on mutual honesty and trust. You have betrayed that trust. We therefore consider these offences are so serious that we have no alternative but to impose an immediate custodial sentence and dismissal from the service."



Antiquities in the UK: Johnny Rotten and the veteran Pistols yesterday. "There's nothing wrong with growing old," declared Rotten

Rotten fires up Pistols for one last blast

By JOE JOSEPH

WATCHING the surviving members of the Sex Pistols, who swore and spat and sometimes even sang their way to punk glory in the 1970s, regroup in London yesterday gave you a new respect for Frank Sinatra and Val Doonican and the art of ageing gracefully.

Led by a beer-bellied, 40-year-old Johnny Rotten, now a rich expatriate living amid the anarchy of front-line Beverly Hills, the four men chose the 100 Club in Oxford Street as the place to announce a world tour this summer.

Why? Because the 100 Club was where they first made waves in 1976. Trying to recapture their two-fingered rebelliousness, the Sex Pistols cursed and belched at a media troupe that has grown old with them, but which has long since traded in tartan bondage straps for mortgages and wedding rings and push-chairs in the ball. As *Anarchy in the UK* and *God Save the Queen* screamed over the loudspeakers, the 300 or so journalists, music industry executives and photographers who had gathered to mark the Sex Pistols' rebirth quivered with all the heady rebelliousness of thermal underwear.

"This is sad, isn't it," one journalist shouted out as the band, looking like pantomime dames wheeled out in their dotage, boasted about how they would just be replacing their antique his unrehearsed. "It's sad that an asshole like you doesn't appreciate the effort we've gone to," Rotten, né Lydon, snapped back, genuinely angry. Then he belched.

Maybe anxious that reviving the spirit of punk might be as tough as reviving Sid Vicious — the one-time Sex Pistol who died of a heroin overdose in 1978 while on remand for the murder of his



The way they were: the Sex Pistols in 1976

girlfriend Nancy Spungen — the organisers showed us films of the band in their prime and videos of that television interview with Bill Grundy. "Isn't this a complete about-face of everything you've stood for?" "Bollocks!" hissed Rotten. "We invented punk, we make the rules."

But hadn't the Sex Pistols done the decent thing and disbanded when they had had their day? "I've changed my mind," Rotten explained. "Money is part of it. That does not make me a hypocrite." He belched again. "People have lived off us. We haven't had a penny, or respect, from

it. There's nothing wrong with growing old. I've matured gracefully," he added, apparently in earnest. "We love our beer bellies."

They play their first date in Finland on June 21, and will appear at Finsbury Park in London on June 23. Glasgow and Belfast are the only other UK fixtures so far in a 19-date European tour. Six weeks in America will be followed by trips to Australia, New Zealand and Japan.

But Rotten is not inviting anyone to hold their breath. "To be quite frank, it's highly likely that we will beat the crap out of each other in the first three seconds."

"Do you think you've grown up?" someone asked. "No, I've grown wide," Rotten replied. "What do the Sex Pistols stand for?" "Money." "How far can you spit these days?" "You wanna test it?" "Er, no thanks."

Who'll put the fizz into final?

By JOHN GOODBODY AND ALAN MITCHELL

TWO soft-drink companies are at odds over whose product the players in the League Cup final will be seen consuming by a television audience expected to top ten million.

Aston Villa and Leeds United, the finalists in the competition sponsored by Coca-Cola, both use Lucozade Sport as their official drink. They are under pressure not to display it prominently on Sunday at Wembley because of the stadium's contract with Coca-Cola.

Martin Corrie, a Wembley spokesman, said: "We have proposed a compromise to the clubs. We have asked that Lucozade is not prominently displayed and we have even offered to provide plain, unmarked bottles. Now the ball is in their court."

Ian Muir, Coca-Cola's manager of external affairs, said yesterday: "Coca-Cola will be made available to both teams. Whether they choose to drink it is up to them. We had the same contractual arrangements last year and there was no problem. We hope there will be no problem this year."

SmithKline Beecham, manufacturers of Lucozade Sport, said it would "continue to supply" the two finalists. The Football League said its agreement with Coca-Cola for the tournament specifically excluded sports drinks.

Terrier savages horse ridden by girl of 15

By ADAM FRESCO AND PETER FOSTER

A HORSE being ridden by a 15-year-old girl was dragged down and savaged by a dog in an hour-long attack which left it badly injured and unable to race again.

The 12-year-old gelding, a cross-country eventer called Robert III, was being ridden by Jessica Long on the beach at Bembridge, Isle of Wight, in preparation for the island's Grand National this weekend when the Staffordshire bull-terrier escaped from its owner and attacked.

Miss Long was forced to dismount and tried to beat off the dog, but to no avail. She was said to be shocked by the attack. Vets battled for three hours to save the animal.

Harry Van Praagh, the

owner and trainer of the 16-hand horse and a former National Hunt jockey in Ireland and trainer at Larn-bourn, said the dog almost ripped its left front leg to shreds. The horse was pulled to the ground before being chased to its stable.

"It was a horrific sustained attack which terrified both the horse and its rider. She was forced to get off the horse because it was so frantic and tried to beat the dog off, but it wouldn't let go."

"The dog then continued to bite and rip at the distraught horse, chasing it back to the stables a mile away. It even managed to climb up in the stables and jump on the horse's back. It was like the

law of the jungle. I have never seen anything like it."

Eventually the horse managed to knock the dog off and kicked it over, almost knocking it senseless, but the dog got up, shook itself and ran off. It was later destroyed.

"I have never seen a horse in such a state, it was sweating and bleeding profusely and was in a terrified state by the time I had managed to lock it away from this dog," Mr Van Praagh added.

"At the moment it is too early to say if or how well he will recover. It was a horrific experience and he is clearly badly hurt mentally as well as physically."

"Jessica is shell-shocked by it all. I'm just thankful there were people in the yard when the horse was chased back to help deal with the situation."

He bought Robert III a few months ago and had had him at stables on the island for only six weeks. "Now he won't race again," he said. "It's very sad when you consider what a good cross-country horse he was."

A police spokesman said statements had been taken over the incident and officers were still investigating what had happened. He confirmed that the dog had been destroyed and that police were appealing for independent witnesses to the incident.



Jessica Long and Harry Van Praagh with Robert III

Japanese storm in English cuppa

By EMMA WILKINS

JAPANESE tea-drinkers are developing an unlikely passion for the English cuppa with a digestive biscuit. Customers at 30 supermarkets in Tokyo and Osaka are paying up to three times the British retail price for a chainstore's brand of Earl Grey tea. English breakfast tea and digestives.

The tea-time treats, which are being endorsed by David Wright, the British Ambassador in Tokyo, have been on sale for four weeks in Japan, where the tea ceremony is one of the country's most ancient traditions.

Hiroshi Kato, a Japanese businessman who lives in England, said his countrymen were passionate about

English tea rituals. "There is a big debate at the moment in Japan over whether you should put cream or jam first on scones — it is quite a serious subject," he said.

The question of whether milk or tea should be poured first was equally problematic, Mr Kato said. "Japanese tea is drunk on its own. But when they are drinking English tea, Japanese people like to use milk or sometimes lemon. I prefer Lapsang Souchong."

The fondness for tea and biscuits was part of a drift towards Western food, including burgers, pizzas and dairy products, Mr Kato said. "Japanese people are becoming increasingly Westernised in their diet, which includes the fast foods but also cheese,

cream and yoghurt. My family in Japan loves biscuits — especially shortbread — and I always take some back with me when I visit."

The tea-time items are being sold by Waitrose, which negotiated a deal with the Daimaru department-store group of Japan in December. The 49 Waitrose brand lines include dry spaghetti, tinned fruit and jam. A Waitrose spokesman said the English tea-time items appeared to be the most popular.

Last year the United Kingdom exported £107 million-worth of food to Japan — a 45 per cent increase on the previous year. Food From Britain, a partly government-funded marketing organisation, opened an office in Tokyo last October.

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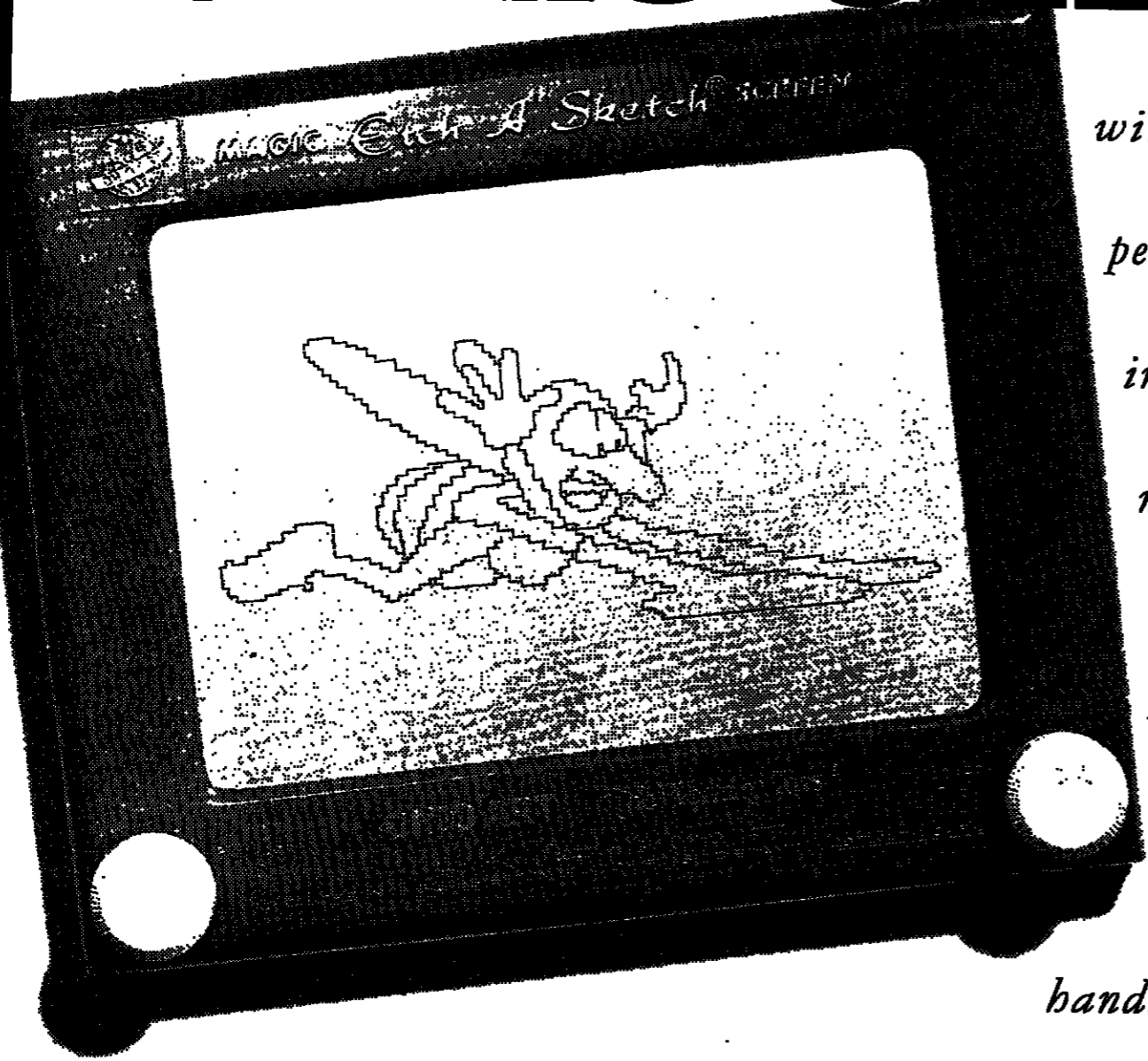
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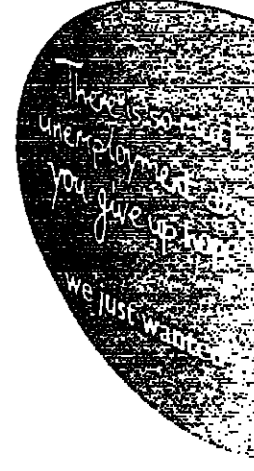
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ed by pupils during the past year, according to a trade union survey. In the city of secondary schools, a quarter of teachers have felt threatened by verbal abuse. The findings have provoked a motion in the annual...



Frederick acted alone, appeal judges are told

West 'was convicted on non-existent evidence'

By RICHARD DUCE

ROSEMARY WEST was convicted as a serial killer on "tenuous and non-existent" evidence, when the facts suggested that her husband Frederick was solely responsible, the Court of Appeal was told yesterday.

Rosemary West, 42, was also the victim of sensational media reporting, which meant she was incapable of getting a fair trial on ten charges of murder, it was said. Her lawyers are seeking leave to appeal against her convictions at Winchester Crown Court last November on the ground that they are unsafe and unsatisfactory.

West, 42, exercised her right not to appear in court yesterday. She is currently in Durham jail after her convictions last November at Winchester Crown Court.

Richard Ferguson, QC, for West, said there had been evidence at her trial that her husband had begun a series of rapes, assaults and abductions of young women when his wife was only six years old.

"That suggestion, that Fred West on the evidence could well have been the sole perpetrator of the ten murders, is the hook upon which the defence hang their objections."

The murders of which Mrs West was convicted "could have been done by Frederick West on his own without any knowing participation by his

THE eldest son of Rosemary West said yesterday that she had a comfortable life in prison, where she is studying for an English degree. West, right, is said to claim that most inmates at Durham jail are frightened of her reputation as Britain's most prolific female serial killer.

Stephen West, 22, a builder from Gloucester, told Independent Radio News: "She is happy and quite content and has found a lot of friends. This is disappointing, really. I wonder if you can call it punishment at all?"

"The only thing they have taken away is her freedom. She feels everybody fears her and she says



nobody has been nasty towards her at all."

Mr West said his mother was reading the classics, attending seminars and working 40 hours a week making toys.

Other than the sheer horror of the discovery of the remains of the victims, in this case the most striking feature was the dearth of evidence to connect Rosemary West to these crimes."

West, a mother of eight, was convicted of luring seven women back to her home at 25 Cromwell Street, Gloucester, where they were then sexually abused and murdered before being buried in the cellar.

Three other charges related to the murder of her daughter Heather, 16, stepdaughter Charmaine, 8, and a lodger, Shirley Robinson. Mr Fergu-

son argued that the Crown should not have been allowed to present so-called "similar fact" evidence about Mrs West's sexual proclivities — including testimony from three women about sadomasochism and bondage and "evidence of her lifestyle and rather lax conduct sexually".

It was accepted at the trial that this evidence had no relevance to three of the murder counts. Yet Mr Justice Mantell refused to sever the trial on those charges from the other seven. The judge, having admitted the evidence, failed to discharge the "heavy bur-

den" on him to give adequate directions to the jury on how it should approach that evidence, Mr Ferguson told Lord Taylor, the Lord Chief Justice, sitting with Mr Justice Mitchell and Mr Justice Newman.

Mr Ferguson said pre-trial newspaper reports, including a claim that West stood to receive up to £10 million from the story of her life with her husband, had made it impossible for her to have a fair trial. "The House of Horror epithet had firmly attached itself to coverage of the trial," he said. There were "offensive, highly prejudicial" accounts in the media, some from those who were to be witnesses at the trial, which described Rosemary West as a nymphomaniac or a prostitute.

One article, by a woman later to give evidence, was headed "Kinky Sex at House of Horror" and described three-in-a-bed sex sessions. "It was full of lurid detail, most of it directed towards Rosemary West and not the husband," Mr Ferguson said.

It was a cause for concern, not only to the defence and trial judge but to the Crown, that witnesses or potential witnesses entered into agreements with the media to provide stories for money, he said.

If the court grants leave to appeal, that appeal would follow immediately before the three judges. The hearing continues today.

Female God faces Satan of two halves

THE choice of a woman to play God in the York Mystery Plays led the city's archdeacon to comment that it was "political correctness gone mad". Now the director has cast a woman as the Devil, albeit with a male counterpart.

Kate Thomson, a bookseller, and Dave Parkinson, a multimedia consultant, will share satanic duties at the Theatre Royal in June.

John Doyle, who last month cast 63-year-old Ruth Ford as God, said a Satan of both sexes was right for the play. "I'm not saying God is a woman, but God is being played by a woman, and I'm not saying Satan is a man or a woman, only that it's being played by a man and a woman because it's the best way to do it in this production."

The two Satans are the final roles to be announced for the plays, which date back to medieval times and were revived in 1951. They are performed every four years. Originally there were 48 plays performed in wagons in the streets of York, but they have been edited and rewritten into a three-hour version for the stage.

Ms Thomson's role is very different from her last appearance four years ago, when she played the Virgin Mary, a part previously filled by Dame Judi Dench and Mary Ure.



Kate Thomson will share with a man the role of the Devil in the Mystery Plays

Classes for parents help children too

By JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

FAMILY reading classes were hailed yesterday as an answer to Britain's growing literacy problems. Researchers examining four Government-sponsored projects said the progress made by parents and children learning together constituted "one of the most successful interventions we have ever encountered".

Within six months, half of those expected to struggle at school had ceased to cause concern. More than 360 parents in poor areas of Cardiff, Norfolk, Liverpool and North Tyneside attended intensive 12-week courses with children aged between three and six. Both parents and children had below-average vocabulary and reading skills.

By the end of the courses, the parents had improved their reading scores by 5 per cent and their writing by 10 per cent. Twelve weeks later, barely more than a third of the children were considered likely to be held back by poor reading, compared with two thirds at the start.

The concept, imported from the United States, was adapted by the Basic Skills Agency with £3 million of government money. At a conference in London to discuss the results of the two-year experiment, Gillian Shephard, the Education and Employment Secretary, indicated her support for an expanded scheme. Mrs Shephard said she could give

no immediate commitment to increase Government funding for family literacy, but added that she was "hugely enthusiastic" about the scheme. "If this is the way to break through the cycle of deprivation and other problems, it has to be taken very seriously."

One in six adults is a poor reader, and ministers have launched a series of initiatives to improve the teaching of basic skills. Mrs Shephard said family initiatives would complement the growth of pre-school education next year.

Academics evaluating the four projects found that the costs compared favourably with other literacy schemes. Dr Greg Brooks, of the National Foundation for Educational Research, said the pilot



Shephard: enthusiastic about reading project

projects should be extended because family learning could raise standards nationally.

Classes took place in schools and adult education centres, mainly attracting mothers. Many parents went on to further studies on their own behalf, and felt more able to help their children at home and later at school.

The approach has been taken up by large firms such as Ford, where the predominantly male workforce has increased the number of fathers taking part. Sue Southwood, who runs classes at the company's Dagenham plant, said that many of the men felt uncomfortable in their children's schools and preferred a work-based course.

Alan Wells, the agency's director, said most of the parents attending classes were anxious to help their children to read but lacked the skills and confidence. The project would not solve Britain's literacy problems on its own but it could make a significant contribution.

When a BBC television programme advertised the agency's information pack on family literacy, more than 300,000 people responded, twice the expected number. Mr Wells said: "Family literacy works. It reaches children who might otherwise fail. It starts early, when there's most impact, and it lasts."

One in seven teachers assaulted

ONE in seven teachers in Manchester has been assaulted by pupils during the past year, according to a trade union survey. In the city's secondary schools, a quarter of teachers have felt threatened by verbal abuse.

The findings have prompted a motion to the annual

conference of the Association of Teachers and Lecturers next month, calling for legislation to force schools to invest in "adequate and appropriate safety and surveillance systems to protect staff and deter intruders".

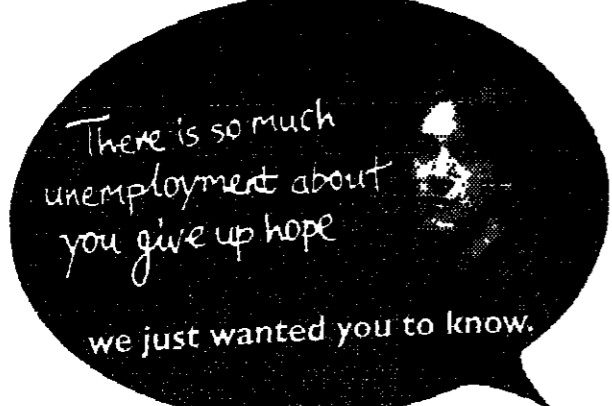
The number of assaults on teachers has risen consistent-

ly in recent years. Hazel Spence-Young, 48, a teacher in Coventry, will describe today, as part of a campaign against classroom violence, how a nine-year-old boy hit her on the chin while she was trying to persuade him to rejoin a lesson. She later accepted £2,500 damages.

Izzard woos young voters

THE comedian Eddie Izzard has joined the Rock the Vote campaign, designed to encourage 18 to 24-year-olds to go to the polls at the next general election.

Izzard will host a fund-raising show, starring Steve Coogan, at the Shepherd's Bush Empire in London on April 10. Other performers appearing around the country in the campaign are Harry Hill, Mark Lamarr, Donna McPhail and Gayle Tuesday. The non-partisan group was launched last month.



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CORRECTION
The top 100 businesses started with the help of the Prince's Trust (report, March 12) have an annual turnover of £50 million.



Among the actors protesting at the National Theatre yesterday over the possible loss of benefit were, left to right, Ann Mitchell, Saskia Wickham, Susannah York, Tim Pigott-Smith, Charlotte Cornwell and Samantha Bond

Stars speak out against loss of dole for 'resting' colleagues

By DALYA ALBERGE
AKTS CORRESPONDENT

SUSANNAH YORK and Nigel Hawthorne were among leading actors who protested yesterday at government plans to deprive the profession of unemployment benefit when "resting".

They argue that if actors are prevented from claiming benefit between roles, many talented performers could be forced out of the business. They say that actors need all the support they can get to survive in a profession in which 25 per cent of the 42,000 Equity members did not work last year, and only 12 per cent were employed for more than 40 weeks.

Equity has learnt that the Department of Social Security is proposing to prevent actors from paying the higher National Insurance contributions that entitle them to unemployment benefit. Ms York said: "For actors, unemployment benefit, statutory sick pay, maternity pay and industrial injuries benefit are not luxury benefits, they are lifelines which fill in the inevitable gaps in employment which occur during

the ups and downs of working life." She said that almost every actor suffered unemployment at some stage and she was no exception. Mr Hawthorne recalled that long before he found international success he endured years of humiliation standing in line to collect his dole money. "I'd often see stars, well-known faces. It was

known as The Club. People would say, 'See you at The Club.'" Referring to a scheme, beginning in October, for out-of-work actors to retrain on JobCentre Restart programmes as gardeners and bricklayers, Mr Hawthorne said: "There are all sorts of schemes to push them down mines and do work in the daytime. But actors have to remain

available so that they can attend meetings and auditions. Otherwise, the work doesn't come." Tim Pigott-Smith, who is appearing in *Mary Stuart* at the National Theatre in London, where the protest was centred, commented: "It is a nightmare keeping alive in our business. This is a philistine and vengeful piece of legislation."

Martin Brown, a spokesman for Equity, said: "The majority of actors, singers and dancers currently pay higher National Insurance contributions for the right to be entitled to non-means-tested benefits when they are out of work. But the Government could strip them of this right." No one from the DSS was available to comment.

Stowaway invaders threaten wildlife

By NICK NUTTALL

ALIEN species, including a Chinese crab and a Japanese worm, are threatening wildlife around Britain's coasts after being dumped by ships, a government report has found. The aliens, stowaways in the ballast of tankers and bulk carriers, are being linked with diseases harmful to shellfish and humans. Others are multiplying in harbours and along shorelines, altering the delicate natural balance and ousting native species by taking over their food and breeding grounds. The Japanese worm is being blamed for fouling boats and harbour installations in places including Southampton Water.

Bottomley orders tests on TV clean-up chip

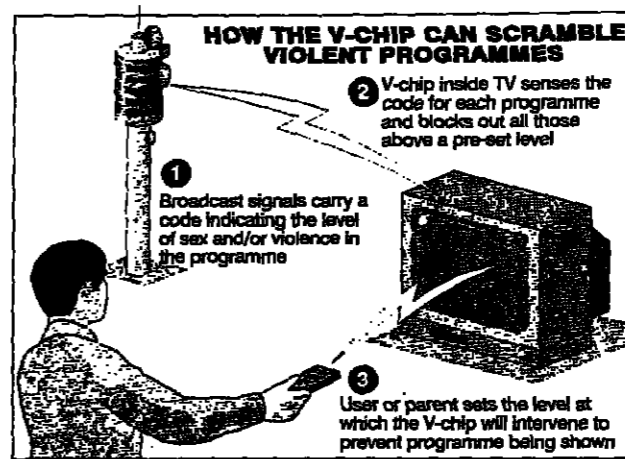
By ALEXANDRA FREAN, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

AN INVESTIGATION into proposals to fit all new television sets with electronic scramblers to block violent or sexually explicit programmes has been ordered by Virginia Bottomley, the National Heritage Secretary. She gave a warning, however, that the "V-chip" would not excuse parents from controlling their children's viewing. Parents needed to be reminded of their responsibilities, she said. "The off-button is always at their disposal. If the V-chip can help, then I would welcome it."



Bottomley: emphasised need for parental control

In the wake of the Dunblane shootings, calls have increased for Britain to follow the lead of the United States where President Clinton last month ordered that all new televisions be fitted with chips from 1998. The European Parliament has endorsed the chip in principle. The V-chip is a computer chip fitted into the television set circuitry. It picks up signals broadcast with each programme, carrying a classification. Programmes might be classified on a scale of one to five, with one representing the "safest" programmes and five the most sexually explicit and violent. Parents can programme their television sets to block all shows classified above a certain level. When a programme exceeding that level is transmitted, the signal is scrambled. The V-chip would be operated by a switch on the television remote control handset and would probably be activated by a four-digit code known only to the viewer.



Sexy and serious items may be lost together

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

THE V-chip, a Canadian invention promoted as a panacea for the ill-effects of television, has been endorsed by the White House, Congress and many American parents. Broadcasters are also cautious. Will Wyatt, managing director of BBC Television, said that the V-chip would make parents share the responsibility for monitoring their children's viewing. But he added: "There is a danger that some broadcasters may use the 'protection' of the V-chip to transmit even stronger material."

Others include species of phytoplankton that form toxic blooms around the coast and suffocate fish and poison shellfish. They have been traced to the Indian and Pacific oceans and the China seas. A link between outbreaks of cholera and the movement of ships has increased concern. Botulism, which can make shellfish a health risk, has also recently been detected in ballast water. The International Maritime Organisation committee charged with environmental protection will meet in London in July. A spokesman said yesterday that cracking down on ballast-dumping was high on the agenda. "We are looking at ways of making the voluntary rules mandatory."

Monsters oust Trocadero's Edwardian ghosts

By JOHN YOUNG

THE Trocadero, which once symbolised the glamour and naughtiness of Victorian and Edwardian London society, is to be reborn as the world's largest "futuristic" theme project. From August the long-vanished sounds of string orchestras playing Strauss and Lehar, and of music-hall artists belting out slightly risqué invitations to dinner-jacketed adventures, will be replaced by the technological magic of 21st-century Japan. Where waltzers once floated among the potted palms, on the corner of Piccadilly and Shaftesbury Avenue, their great-grandchildren will be able to enjoy virtual reality

rides through outer space and the ocean depths, encountering the Beast in Darkness and the Mad Bazooka to a bombardment of sounds, sights and smells. The joint venture of Trocadero plc and Sega Enterprises of Japan will cost £45 million and, at 110,000 sq ft, will occupy more space than the Albert Hall. It is expected to attract 1.75 million visitors, create 160 jobs in its first year, give a long-overdue facelift to a famous corner of the West End and to boost tourism. The scheme was welcomed yesterday by Virginia Bottomley, the National Heritage Secretary, and by the British Tourist Authority. In the early 16th century the site was owned by Eton Col-



A 1921 impression of Trocadero after-theatre suppers

lege and the Mercers Company, and was sold to a tailor in about 1612. The name Piccadilly comes from part of a hem of a garment. In 1623 the land was sold to a colonel who built houses and shops and during the late 18th and early 19th centuries the buildings housed a circus, a theatre and exhibitions. In 1849 Robert Bignell opened a casino and nightclub known as the Argyle Rooms. He was forced to close them in 1873 because they had acquired a dubious reputation, but built the Trocadero Palace, a music hall where the entertainers included Marie Lloyd, Dan Leno and Charles Chaplin senior. In 1895 the main building was converted into a restaur-

Failure to cut fishing fleet 'has cost £12m'

By MICHAEL HORNSBY
AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

EMMA BONINO, the European Fisheries Commissioner, accused Britain yesterday of allowing its fishing fleet to double in tonnage when it should have reduced it. Speaking at the end of a tour of English and Scottish fishing ports, Signora Bonino said the Government had forfeited £12 million in aid from the European Union for fleet modernisation because it had not met reduction targets which most other member states had achieved. "Figures provided by the Government show the British fleet increased in size from 116,000 tonnes in 1986 to 212,000 tonnes in 1991," Signora Bonino said. "Since then, according to provisional figures, the tonnage has risen further to about 235,000 tonnes."

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Mergers aim to improve accuracy

Revised test targets may close cervical smear laboratories

By JEREMY LAURANCE HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

UP TO one in five cervical smear laboratories faces closure or merger under measures to improve the accuracy of the screening programme.

Targets announced yesterday by Sir Kenneth Calman, the Government's Chief Medical Officer, set a minimum number of smears to be processed by each laboratory to ensure that screeners have sufficient expertise to detect abnormalities.

The targets, which also cover the proportion of women screened and the speed of results, are designed to restore confidence in the service which has been dented by a series of scandals in which smears have been wrongly taken or misdiagnosed. Last month Kent and Canterbury Hospital said that it was re-examining 70,000 smears taken over five years because of fears that some abnormalities had been missed.

Figures released by the Health Department last month showed a five-fold variation in the proportion of smears judged abnormal in different areas. In Huntingdon 10.9 per cent of smears were rated abnormal, compared with 1.8 per cent in Hillingdon.

The range is too wide to be accounted for by variations in the incidence of the disease and means that some women at risk of cancer are being



Calman: wants to cut regional test variations

missed while others are being needlessly worried. Laboratories have been told they should expect to find 4 to 7 per cent of smears with borderline or mild abnormalities and 1.2 to 2 per cent with moderate or severe abnormalities.

The new targets, contained in three documents published by the NHS cervical screening programme yesterday, set an annual minimum of 15,000 smears for laboratories and 3,000 per screener.

Of the 188 laboratories in England, 34 screened fewer than 15,000 smears last year, though some of these are specialist laboratories receiving a high proportion of abnormal smears.

Julietta Patrick, co-ordinator of the national programme, said: "If you don't

have a sufficient throughput you will not see a sufficient number of abnormalities to keep your skills up to date." The targets set a maximum of 7,500 smears per screener per year, to protect against errors caused by fatigue.

Dr Jane Johnson, chairman of the British Society of Clinical Cytology and a member of the working party that produced the targets, said screeners should deal with eight smears an hour for no more than four hours a day with a half-hour break, spending the rest of the day doing other tasks.

The targets also specify that at least 80 per cent of women aged 25-64 should be screened once every five years. All women should receive their results in writing within six weeks, with 80 per cent receiving them within four weeks. Between 85 and 95 per cent of abnormalities must be detected at the first screen.

Sir Kenneth Calman said: "We want to improve the quality and reduce the variation across the country in the cervical screening service."

The screening programme offers a three or five-yearly test to women aged 20 to 64. About 4,000 cases of cancer and 18,000 cases of pre-cancer are detected annually. There were 1,369 deaths from cervical cancer in 1994, most among women who had never been screened. The scheme is estimated to save 1,000 to 2,000 lives a year.



Peter Phillips embracing his mother, the Princess Royal, yesterday during a seven-a-side schoolboy rugby tournament at Rosslyn Park, west London. The 18-year-old was playing for Gordonstoun. Report, page 44

NEWS IN BRIEF

MacKenzie accepts apology

Kelvin MacKenzie, head of Mirror Group Television, accepted an apology at the High Court for claims that Rupert Murdoch dismissed him from BSkyB for incompetence. George Carman, QC, for Mr MacKenzie, said he left voluntarily. Business Magazines (UK), Tom Rubythorn, former editor of BusinessAge, and journalist Anil Bhoyrul accepted their report was inaccurate.

Flowers taken

Three people were arrested after flowers were taken on Saturday from a fatal accident scene. They had been left at the spot where WPC Philippa Parish, 29, was injured when a police car hit a wall while answering a burglar alarm in Winchester last Wednesday. She died later.

Hijacker banned

A student who hijacked a bus and passengers was banned from driving for two years and given 100 hours of community service by Bow Street magistrates in London. Matthew Watkins, 23, of Kennington, south London, admitted drink-driving and driving without insurance.

Double trouble

Paul Brown, 25, of Knowsley, Merseyside, a remand prisoner who went on the run for 22 months after changing clothes with his identical twin in a prison visiting room, was jailed for 18 months at Liverpool. His brother had been jailed for 12 months.

Hostages moved

The four Britons being held by separatist rebels in Irian Jaya are being moved from place to place almost every day, an Indonesian hostage said after being freed. One of them, Anna Melvor, 20, "had to be carried because of sheer fatigue", he said.

Cow charged

Two men dressed as a pantomime cow charged through a cordon on the Newbury bypass site, magistrates at Andover, Hampshire, were told. They denied aggravated trespass and were bailed to reappear on April 14.

Customs warns of heroin epidemic as smuggling grows

By STEWART TENDLER CRIME CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN is facing a heroin epidemic, customs investigators said yesterday as they pronounced record seizures of the drug last year.

The 80 per cent increase in finds in 1995 heightens fears that the drug is once again becoming fashionable among young people. Abuse of heroin has been rising for the past five years and investigators believe traffickers are attempting to flood Britain with imports smuggled from south-west Asia.

The drug has become more easily accessible because it can be smoked rather than injected. Doses of heroin are sold as paper "wraps", in which the drug is screwed into a tiny, tight bundle. Each wrap sells on the streets for £10.

Speaking at the launch of national police and customs

HEROIN SEIZURES 1991-1995

1991	448.28kg
1992	620.55kg
1993	1,111.82kg
1994	1,111.82kg
1995	408.77kg

DRUG SEIZURES 1995

DRUG	KILOGRAMS	VALUE
Cocaine	940.702	£109,487,712.80
Heroin	39,778.228	£135,239,175.20
Cannabis resin	543.825	£29,572,004.00
Ecstasy	4.617	£48,170.00
Opium		

drug figures for 1995, Dick Kellaway, head of customs investigations, said the heroin threat was "potentially the most serious drug problem that all of us face." Seizures of cocaine fell to 940 kilograms last year, down

from 2,205kg in 1994. However, if three large finds are taken separately, customs officers say cocaine figures are still going up.

Police forces reported a 37 per cent rise in heroin finds. It is the most frequently seized class A drug; last year it was found in more than a third of class A drug raids or arrests.

Mr Kellaway said heroin was being imported to create a market, rather than to meet existing demand. Smugglers made more money from Britain because the price was higher than in the rest of Europe.

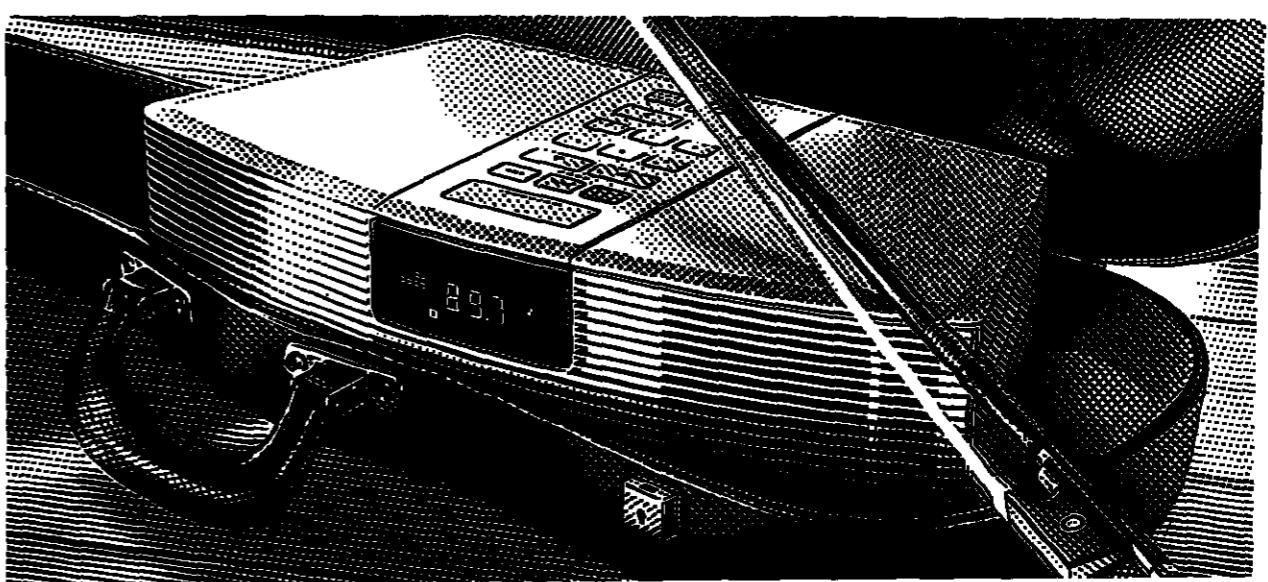
Tony Newton, Leader of the Commons and chairman of a ministerial group on drug misuse, said the Government intended to stop an increase in heroin abuse. "Britain is not wash with drugs, but we have to recognise that reducing the supply of illegal substances ultimately depends on

reducing the demand for them." Tom Sackville, a junior Home Office minister, said the Government was planning tougher sentences for dealers who were repeatedly convicted. He said: "Those who try to subvert our children have to be punished."

Seizures of ecstasy rose by 18 per cent from about 460kg to 544kg, the equivalent of 21 million doses. Customs investigators also found a record 55 tonnes of cannabis.

Overall in 1995 Customs seized its largest amount of drugs ever. Officers uncovered 55.6 tonnes of drugs worth £457 million, compared with 51 tonnes in 1994. A further £421 million worth of drugs was found abroad. In all, customs officers believe they prevented drugs worth £1.2 billion entering Britain.

Keith Hellawell, Chief Constable of West Yorkshire Police and head of a police committee on drug problems, said ecstasy finds rose 50 per cent: "We have an acceptance of drugs ... particularly among 'rave' users there seems to be a belief that what they are doing is not wrong. That misunderstanding is something we have got to get through."



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183 drivers are caught speeding in one hour

By KEVIN EASON

MOTORISTS driving on a narrow carriageway flanked by roadwork cones have been caught speeding at the rate of three a minute.

Kent Police set up a camera on a stretch of road with a 40mph limit and caught 183 drivers speeding in an hour. One driver was snapped doing 86mph through the section of the A2 near Dover on Saturday.

PC Ken Usher, who was back with his laser camera on the same stretch of road yesterday, was horrified as cars hurried through the coned-off carriageway within a few feet of workmen, ignoring the temporary speed signs. He said: "It is quite incredible that motorists are oblivious to the fact that they are driving in an area where there are people working and whose lives could be endangered by reckless driving."

"Cars were passing me every 20 seconds breaking the law. Those drivers are either irresponsible or do not appreciate the fact that they are putting people in danger of their lives."

PC Usher's camera is one of the latest devices employed by police in the war against speeding drivers. Even at the rate of three cars a minute, the camera can record the speed, time and licence plate details of each vehicle.

As a result, all 183 drivers caught over the weekend will be notified by police of their offences, be fined £40 and have three points endorsed on their licences.

Labour and Tories promise tough campaign in pursuit of Tamworth victory

By-election battle that neither side can afford to lose

BY ALICE THOMPSON, POLITICAL REPORTER

THE Tories are obsessed with the need to win the Staffordshire South East by-election next month because this is where their illustrious prime minister Sir Robert Peel launched his Tamworth manifesto and created the modern Conservative Party.



Peel: illustrious Tamworth Tory

Labour is equally desperate to win, to prove that it is the true inheritor of Sir Robert's populist legacy. But what both parties seem to have forgotten is that Peel's other great achievement was to split the Tories on the issue of the corn laws and put the party into opposition for a generation.

Mr James, who is now a charity fundraising consultant, says that he is not as ardent a right-wing populist as Sir David had been. He is against a return to capital punishment and is pragmatic on Europe.

version, an immaculately polished former major in the Royal Artillery who loves difficult questions and relishes a good fight. He is also the first Tory by-election candidate for years who has not had to be chaperoned everywhere he goes.

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The candidates: Brian Jenkins, Labour; Jennette Davy, Liberal Democrat; and Jimmy James, Conservative

seen its fortunes improve in recent years. The castle town was once the capital of Mercia. Then for generations it was in decline, famous only for its breed of pig and for manufacturing Reliant Robins.

Government is remotely caring or has the people's and community's interests at heart," he said. "It has reverted to type, looking after the privileged few like in the 19th century."

Davy, who seems to have given up already, said: "My overall objective is to get the Tories out," she said. "If we can't have a Liberal Democrat MP, and if electing a Labour MP brings forward the date of a general election, that is maybe a price worth paying."

General election, 1992: D. L. Lightbown, C. 29,180; B. Jenkins, Lab, 21,988; N. Penlington, Lib Dem, 5,540; majority 7,192

Major to resist Unionist poll call

BY NICHOLAS WOOD AND NICHOLAS WATT

JOHN MAJOR will defy the Ulster Unionists and hard-line Tory backbenchers today over their blueprint for elections to the proposed Northern Ireland peace forum.

meeting today in Downing Street, will confound recent speculation by drawing back from unqualified endorsement of the Unionist call for a ballot centred on parliamentary constituencies.

Mr Major and Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Northern Ireland Secretary, are said to be in no doubt about the difficulties facing them. But they believe that they might yet devise a package that makes enough concessions to all sides.

start on June 10; the need to ensure backing from Dublin and Labour for the next set of proposals; calls from the nationalist SDLP for a peace referendum in Ireland to demonstrate popular support for negotiations leading to a lasting settlement.

NEC accused of prejudice

BY JILL SHERMAN

LABOUR'S ruling body was accused in the High Court yesterday of prejudice against a union official who failed to be selected as a parliamentary candidate in Swindon North, a key marginal seat.

ans, a long-standing member of the National Executive Committee, accused it of breaking party rules and treating Mr D'Avila unfairly. Mr D'Avila alleges that a number of postal votes were opened before the official count and could have been tampered with.

mend a fresh ballot. As the case resumed in the High Court in London yesterday Mr Evans submitted an affidavit complaining of prejudice against Mr D'Avila, an official from the Amalgamated Engineering and Electrical Union.

Ministers facing defeat on divorce

BY JILL SHERMAN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Government faces a Commons defeat over plans to remove an amendment from its divorce reform laws committing ministers to early legislation on splitting pension rights for divorced couples.

But senior Labour party sources made clear last night that they were likely to oppose any move which delayed the legislation. Party sources fear that if the amendment were removed it would be easy for the Government to renege on its promise.

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Rock found in Moroccan village Geologist digs up unknown mineral on roadside stall

BY NIGEL HAWKES
SCIENCE EDITOR

A BRIGHT blue rock bought for a few pounds at a roadside stall in Morocco is unlike anything known to science, according to experts at the Natural History Museum in London.

The pyramid-shaped mineral was taken to the museum by its owner, Anna Grayson, a broadcaster, when she was presenting a programme during last year's Science Week in which museum experts identified objects taken in by members of the public.

The Arab stallholder who sold it to her described it as lapis lazuli, but Mrs Grayson, a geologist by training, realised it was more unusual. She could not identify it, and nor could the museum's expert, Dr Gordon Cressey.

Tests at the museum using X-ray diffraction made it clear that the mineral was new. Dr Cressey said that new minerals — about 40 of which are discovered and described every year — are usually found in such microscopic amounts that they are barely visible to the naked eye. This new mineral is so unusual because the specimen is very large and



because it is the most strikingly blue mineral ever discovered," he said.

Mrs Grayson said she saw the rock for sale while on a field trip and was intrigued enough to buy it. "I'm thrilled to bits," she said. "Every stone has a story and this is a remarkable one. It shows that Science Week can be an opportunity for real discoveries to be made."

Under an electron microscope, the mineral — yet to be given a name — has a structure made up of very fine fibres, rather like asbestos. When viewed under polarised light, it displays a kaleidoscope of colour, changing from bright blue to bright purple.



Anna Grayson and her roadside rock purchase

to stimulate the production of X-rays, the museum team has established that it contains silicon, aluminium, calcium, magnesium, iron and oxygen.

The composition provides a hint of why the mineral should be so intensely blue. It seems likely that the iron is present in two forms and that electrons can hop to and fro between neighbouring iron atoms as light strikes it. Yellow, green and red light are the right wavelength to stimulate the process, leaving the blue component of white light to pass through unabsorbed.

Dr Cressey said that investigating minerals provided insights into the range of properties engineered by nature. "If we want to devise new materials, chemicals and crystals for useful purposes, then we should first look at what nature has managed to do. It has had a lot longer to experiment than we shall ever have."

Nobody knows exactly where the rock originated, and Mrs Grayson, from Watford, is keeping the name of the Moroccan village where she bought it a secret to prevent it from being swamped by souvenir hunters.

"I'm fairly certain it comes from a mountainous region," she said, "but that could be anywhere, even perhaps outside Morocco. It has clearly been compressed, squeezed and heated in the earth, and I suspect it is pretty ancient." She hopes that its source will be found, and the mineral given a name reflecting it.

Mrs Grayson's rock will be a central attraction at the South Kensington museum during this year's Science, Engineering and Technology Week, which began at the weekend. Today it will be shown to Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, when he pays a visit.



A passenger boarding a Routemaster yesterday. The buses are popular with the public, but Brussels considers them hazardous. Photograph: JULIAN HERBERT

Brussels moves to shut door on 'unsafe' buses

By Jonathan Prynn, Transport Correspondent

THE 150-year-old tradition of "open-platform" double-decker buses on the streets of London is under threat from a draft Brussels ruling that will force new buses to be fitted with passenger doors.

The ruling would stop London Transport commissioning a 21st-century successor to the Routemaster, the most recent in a long line of "hop on, hop off" buses dating back to the Victorian horse-drawn double-deckers.

The European Commission regards London's Routemasters as dangerous and outdated and wants all buses built in Europe after 2000 to have doors to stop passengers from falling out and injuring themselves.

The draft legislation, which is still being drawn up by a working party, states that "the minimum number of doors in a vehicle shall be two: either two service doors or one service door and one emergency door".

Routemasters, which are the last open-platform buses operating in Western Europe, are popular with Londoners and tourists, allowing them to jump on and off even if the bus is moving. Senior executives at London Transport, fearing complaints if doors are brought in, have asked a design company to explore ways of bypassing the legislation. One possibility is fitting doors to the back of new platform buses to meet the letter of the legislation but leaving them open.

The 600 surviving Routemasters, built between 1959 and 1969, are reaching the end of their extended service and will have to be replaced within six years. They were designed to operate for only 17 years.

Peter Ford, chairman of London Transport, has called a conference of bus executives in June to consider options for the future, with one possibility being single-deck "bendi-buses". London Transport lawyers may also lobby against an open-platform design, fearing legal action from passengers who fall from buses.

Mick Jones, managing director of DCA, Design International, which has the brief for a new design, said: "It's a quandary to know what to do. The Routemaster is an icon of London, up there with Tower Bridge and the black taxi." The system of urban light transport, called Ultra, is the result of research by a group headed by Professor Martin Lowson, who was explaining it at Waterloo station yesterday as part of Science Week. By early next century the team believes it would be possible to install Ultra in Bristol.

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Bristol hails future of driverless taxis

By Nigel Hawkes

TRAVEL around cities in the future could be by driverless, computer-controlled vehicles carrying passengers to their destination on command.

A Bristol University team has devised a system and plans to test it at the British Aerospace site nearby in Filton. The vehicles would carry four, and run on tracks. They could be boarded at stops or hailed like taxis, and would take passengers directly to any other point on the network.

transport, called Ultra, is the result of research by a group headed by Professor Martin Lowson, who was explaining it at Waterloo station yesterday as part of Science Week. By early next century the team believes it would be possible to install Ultra in Bristol.

Most journeys would be at ground level on hidden power rails, with some sections on elevated pathways to cross traffic routes. The system would cut journey times, use only a tenth as much energy as cars, and provide a 24-hour service, accessible to all.

Housing threat to prime farmland

By Michael Hornsby
AGRICULTURE
CORRESPONDENT

UP TO half the farmland in England will be at risk from new housing schemes because of a proposed weakening of planning controls, it is claimed today.

The Council for the Protection of Rural England says the proposal flies in the face of the Government's stated commitment to build a bigger proportion of new houses on developed land rather than on

greenfield sites. Gregor Hutcheon, the council's rural affairs officer, said: "The Government is proposing to relax the protection given to the highest-quality agricultural land, classified as Grade 3a, particularly in counties where there is little lower-grade land available."

"We reckon that 35 out of 46 counties in England fall into that category. If the proposal goes through it would mean that up to half of England's farmland will be treated as agriculturally unimportant."

At present Grade 3a land, which accounts for 13.5 per cent of farmland in England and Wales, is virtually guaranteed protection from development because of its importance for food production.

A "more flexible approach" to the development of Grade 3a land was proposed in the Government's Rural White Paper, published last October. The Environment Department says revised planning guidelines will be issued to local authorities this summer. In a report released today,

the council says the lowering of protection will encourage unrealistic demand for new housing. Mr Hutcheon said: "It also ignores the recent warning by the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution that Britain could face food shortages in the next century if too much of the best farmland is built on."

The Environment Department calculates that 4.4 million new houses — equivalent to 27 new towns the size of Milton Keynes — will be needed over the next 20 years.

Saudi buys football club for son

By John Goodbody
SPORTS NEWS
CORRESPONDENT

A SAUDI ARABIAN millionaire is buying a football club so that his son can become a professional player. Saleh al-Aisawi will pay £250,000 for Faversham Town, the bottom club in the Winstonlead Kent League, which is threatened with bankruptcy.

Mr al-Aisawi, 42, a businessman and former Saudi international, trains every week with the Faversham

youth squad, of which his son Karim, 14, is a member. Mr al-Aisawi is also one of the few regular spectators at first-team fixtures. At a floodlit game last week 33 paying supporters watched semi-professional Faversham lose 3-1.

Vernon Willis, the club secretary, said: "Our electricity bill for the night was much more than the game earned. The club is £6,500 in debt."

The purchase has still to be finalised. Mr al-Aisawi, who runs an international recycling company and lives in

Herne Bay, said: "As far as I am concerned, the deal has been done and I am very happy with it. I just want to do everything I can do to help Faversham and my son. We are bottom of the Kent league and cannot drop any lower. I love football and do not think I am wasting my money."

"I realise the club has a long way to go, but we have the right spirit. My son's ambition is to be a professional footballer and play for Saudi Arabia, as I did. He is a very good midfield player and has

already represented Kent schoolboys." Mr al-Aisawi has told supporters that he wants to see the club, which was founded in 1908, promoted to Beazer Homes Southern League.

Mr Willis said: "I thought it was April Fools' Day when Saleh got in touch with me and said he wanted to buy the club. We looked like folding at the end of the season. I understand his son is a fine player, just like his father was, and like most boys wants to become a professional."

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TW 1903

Court told how marriage to 'Mother of the Nation' left Mandela at the end of his tether

President needed to go public with his divorce

FROM INIGO GILMORE IN JOHANNESBURG

THE question being asked by many in South Africa last night was whether it really was necessary for President Mandela, a world leader of enormous stature and integrity, to humiliate himself publicly in a court of law, just to secure a divorce. Perhaps contrary to suggestions, the answer seems clear-cut.

It is worth recalling a revealing early tale about the couple when Mr Mandela, then 41, took his wife for a driving lesson on a quiet Soweto road shortly after they were married in 1958. "We could not seem to shift gears without quarrelling," he recalled many years later. "Finally, after she had ignored one too many of my suggestions, I stormed out of the car and walked home. Winnie seemed to do better without my tutelage, for she proceeded to drive around the township on her own for the next hour."

known marriages between two people noted for their stubbornness has endured numerous collisions. Over the past 36 years Mrs Mandela has time and again shown she is not one for being controlled. Yesterday's court proceedings gave a glimpse of what the exasperated South African

riage should never be underestimated. It was not unusual for her to see him only once every six months on Robben Island, and then only for a few minutes. As the President's affidavit states: "The relationship between the defendant and me gradually disintegrated over many years".

Her behaviour would have tested the patience of greater men. One is left with the impression of a desperate man at the end of his tether with a woman whose profile as "Mother of the Nation" went to her head.

Early in 1977, Mrs Mandela was banished to the remote township of Phataakahle, outside Brandfort in the Orange Free State. She returned to Soweto in 1985, again in open defiance of the authorities, but many consider it was these nine years in exile that radically changed her.

She became the focus of mass adulation and greedy for money and opulence. Her mansion in Soweto cost £125,000 and she surrounded herself with young thugs known as the Mandela United Football Club. Their activities brought her into conflict with anti-apartheid activists, and in 1989 she was isolated within the liberation struggle.

COMMENTARY

leader has had to contend with. In solemn tones Mr Mandela recalled how he had made it clear to his estranged wife that he wanted a divorce and on several occasions sent friends and colleagues to mediate, all to no avail. With a weary look etched on his face, he also mentioned how Mrs Mandela ignored his calls as the leader of the African National Congress not to travel to America with her lover.

The strain that his 27-year imprisonment put on the mar-

Yet from early on Mrs Mandela showed how she favoured a different approach, which has raised questions about Mr Mandela's judgment in selecting her as a bride. From militant statements, notably the comment about matches and tyres during the township unrest of the 1980s, which often contradicted ANC policy to her more recent dismissal for misconduct as a deputy minister, she has long walked the populist path.



Winnie and Nelson Mandela celebrate the end of the state of emergency in 1960 with a jubilant show of affection, but quarrels marred their marriage from the start

Secrets of husband's accounts

Johannesburg: Mystery surrounds the central question in the Mandela divorce case: how much the South African President is worth (Inigo Gilmore writes).

At the weekend a South African newspaper put the figure at about £6.6 million. But the reality is that only a handful of people know.

The President's lawyers close up when questioned. What is known is that Mr Mandela earns 552,000 rands (£100,000) a year in presidential salary. But a third of his salary and some of the proceeds of his autobiography, *Long Walk To Freedom*, have been channelled into his Children's Fund, set up to help South Africa's youth. It is also thought that money from his Nobel peace prize has been directed towards charity.

Winnie Mandela is claiming half his assets, but there may be a few surprises if details emerge. Mr Mandela is known to live frugally and given his generosity, he may not be worth as much as his wife hopes.

Low turnout adds to emptiness of Mugabe victory

FROM JAN RAATH IN HARARE

PRESIDENT MUGABE of Zimbabwe was heading for a predictably secure victory yesterday in the weekend's controversial presidential elections. However, he was also having to face up to the poorest turnout of voters since he came to power 16 years ago.

Mariyawanda Nzuwaha, the chairman of the election directorate, said that only 31 per cent of 4.9 million registered voters had cast ballots, compared with 55 per cent in the 1990 presidential election.

Bishop Abel Muzorewa, 71, president of the United Parties, and the Rev Ndabaningi Sithole, 76, the leader of the Zanu (Ndonga) party, both pulled out of the election last week, citing unfair electoral practices. Election officials first said that the poll would have to be cancelled and Mr Mugabe would have to be declared elected unopposed. Then they reversed that decision, saying the notices of withdrawal were too late and the vote would go ahead.

"I regard that figure [of the turnout] as a rejection of Mugabe," Bishop Muzorewa said last night. "He does not have a mandate to rule this country. I feel very good that we have been successful in boycotting this bogus election."

We are now being ruled by a black minority one-party dictatorship.

Results from the first seven constituencies showed Mr Mugabe won all comfortably, except for Chipping South, Mr Sithole's parliamentary seat.

Mr Mugabe ran a lavish campaign to counter widespread discontent with his rule and the corruption and mismanagement that have forced living standards to crash. He has been rescued from deeper embarrassment by the rural areas where he enjoys most support. In urban areas, polling stations were deserted.



Muzorewa: "We are ruled by minority dictatorship"



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LAW 33-38

What punishment when a mother kills her child?



ARTS 39-41

Why Joe Ely is the best-kept secret in country



SPORT 42-48

The Fridge weighs in for London Monarchs

TELEVISION AND RADIO Pages 46, 47

THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

TUESDAY MARCH 19 1996

New laws will defend mutuality Societies to be shielded from predatory bids

By ROBERT MILLER

PREDATORS on the lookout for a building society to boost their corporate expansion plans will be thwarted by new legislation to protect societies that wish to retain their mutual status.

Angela Knight, Economic Secretary to the Treasury, yesterday unveiled a draft Building Societies Bill that proposes to "ring-fence" against outside bids two societies that have announced their intention to merge.

The minister, who is understood to have put forward the idea herself, intervened after hearing at first hand from society chiefs their fears that, in the present highly charged, merger-mania atmosphere, if they do announce a merger they will, in effect, have put themselves into play.

As a result, they could attract hostile bids, possibly from banks, insurers or European institutions looking for a foothold in the UK market, all of whom would be prepared to pay a handsome premium for the right society. Those most often tipped as the favourite targets, in spite of public declarations about remaining mutual, include the Nationwide, Bradford & Bingley, Bristol & West, Yorkshire and West Bromwich.

Speaking at the launch of the proposed Bill, which is unlikely to be enacted before

spring of next year, Mrs Knight said: "Building societies want to feel that if they do try to merge for sound business reasons that this does not put them in the firing line or on the predatory route." The protected period could last for up to a year. If a bid is made, and subsequently rejected by members, then the bidder will not be able to mount a repeat bid for one year.

For 10 million borrowers and 38 million savers, the new Bill should give them a greater say in how their individual society is run. Societies, for example, will be allowed to branch out into new areas of business, such as general household and motor insurance, but only after members have been canvassed.

The old-fashioned distinction will be scrapped between savings accounts that bestow membership rights and, therefore, entitlement to free bonus shares or even cash in the event of a merger or takeover, and deposit accounts, which do not carry such rights.

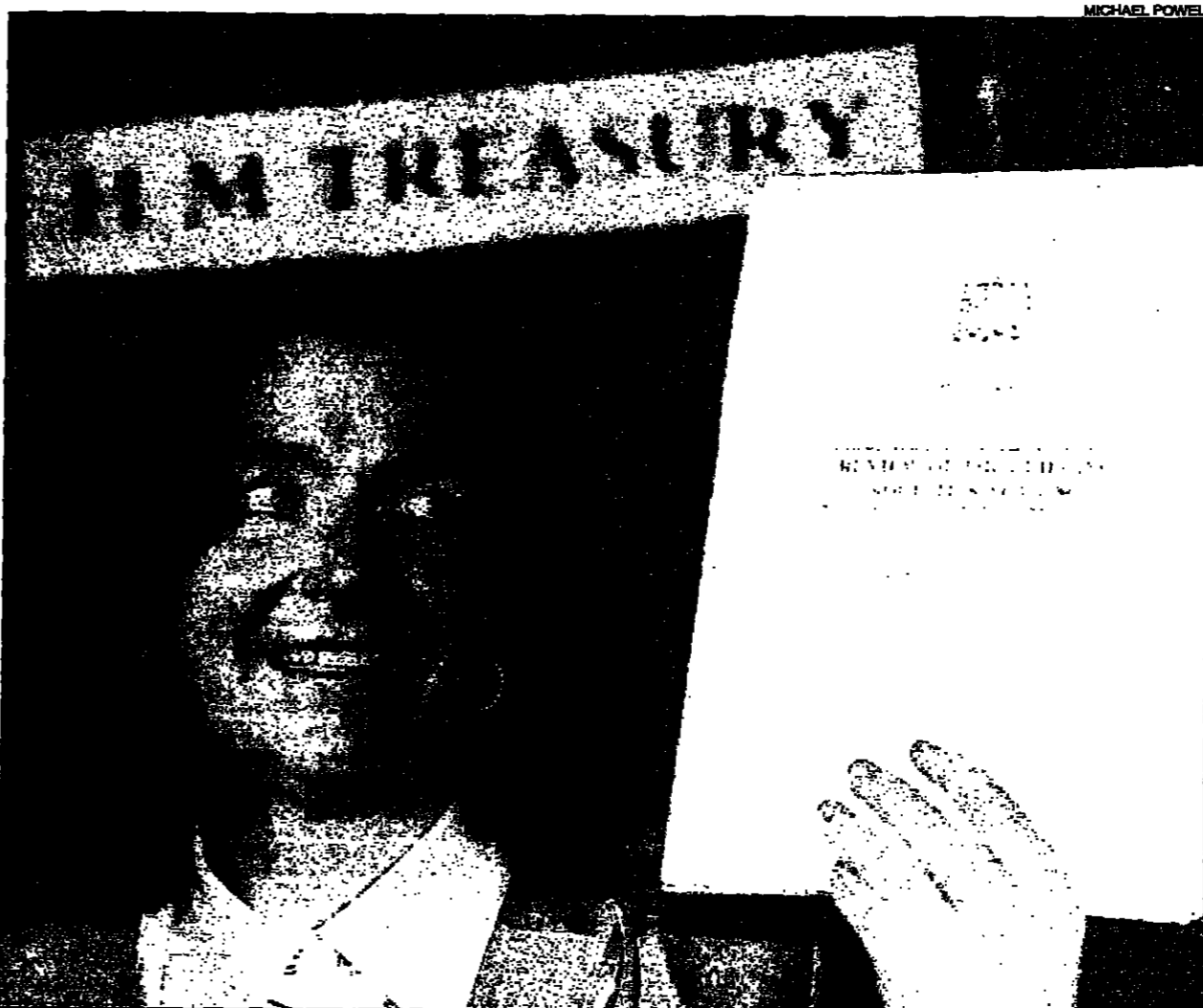
The Building Societies Association broadly welcomed the proposed Bill but called on the Government "to sort out the two-year rule". At present this states that only investing members of two years standing or more should receive a cash bonus if a society demutualises. But the Woolwich,

Halifax and Alliance & Leicester, all of whom intend to become public companies next year, have overcome this hurdle by offering free shares instead of cash.

Ken Culley, chairman of the BSA, said: "The two-year rule is meant to ensure that only members with an ongoing and longer-term interest in the society, whose votes are less likely to be 'bought' by promises of windfall gains, should receive payouts on conversion. The current situation does not achieve this aim; it encourages individuals to speculate and undermines the voting process on conversion resolutions. The Government should re-examine this issue."

Alistair Darling, Labour's spokesman on the City, said that there was an urgent need to "get the legislation on the statute book" before the next parliamentary session is cut short by the general election. He added: "It is already clear that many people will miss out from benefits payable on conversion to plc status. We believe that membership should be defined as widely as possible but with a requirement that an individual must be a member of a society for at least two years before they can benefit from any payout on change of status."

Pennington, page 27



Angela Knight showing off a copy of her draft Bill yesterday. It aims to "ring-fence" societies that have announced a merger

Bill could have halted conversion

By ROBERT MILLER

ALLIANCE & LEICESTER, the fourth largest building society which plans to become a public company next spring, said yesterday that it might not have pressed ahead with conversion plans if the proposed new government legislation had been in place.

Peter White, group chief executive of the Alliance & Leicester, which announced a 15 per cent increase in annual operating profits to £327 million, said: "If the Government had done this two years ago

we may have come to a very different decision." As it is, the society, which also owns Girobank, has brought forward its plans to join the stock market from summer next year to the spring of 1997 — ahead of its main rivals the Woolwich and the Halifax.

Alliance & Leicester, which will be valued at around £2.5 billion, is expected to reward three million qualifying savers and borrowers with an average payout of free shares worth between £750

and £900. As part of its preparation to become a public company, the Alliance & Leicester has decided to withdraw from the residential estate agency business and as a result wrote off £40 million in goodwill and the expected costs of the disposal of the 70-strong chain of shops. The society's pre-tax profits for 1995 were therefore only £3 million higher at £287 million than in 1994.

Mr White said that the group's underlying businesses

were strong with 40 per cent of pre-tax profits now coming from non-core business. Next year, he added, Alliance & Leicester would branch out into general insurance business, personal pensions and health care. Mr White said that on the homes insurance side the society would aim to meet the low-cost telephone insurers "head-to-head" on premium rates.

On other business, gross mortgage lending rose by 12 per cent to nearly £3 billion.

Shareholders in cash-rich Argos to get special payout

By SARAH BAGNALL

ARGOS, the catalogue retailer, is to release £126.8 million of spare cash to its shareholders by way of a special dividend worth 42p a share. The retailer also pledged to pay annual ordinary dividends of at least £39 million in the future.

Argos has spent the past year trying to find a home for

its fast-growing cash pile, which averaged £190 million during 1995. It continues to look at acquisition opportunities, which are rumoured to include the UK businesses of Signet, the former Ratners jewellery group, Mike Smith, chief executive, said: "The special dividend leaves us with plenty of cash to develop

other opportunities, which could include an acquisition."

The news of the payout came as Argos disclosed a 24 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £124.4 million in the year to December 30. Sales rose 14.2 per cent to £1.4 billion, while like-for-like sales rose 7.7 per cent. The shares rose 24p to 638p. All the product ranges reported improved sales, with the best performance from furniture, followed by textiles and leisure goods.

Looking ahead, Mr Smith said: "We believe that the UK is over-shopped and that all retailers are coming under pressure. The realities are that it is going to get tougher going forward, and maintaining success is going to become more and more difficult. We are never going to go back to the stupid 1980s."

The final dividend of 9p makes a total for the year of 13p, up 24 per cent. Both the final dividend and the special dividend are payable on May 23. The special dividend is being made in conjunction with a 14-for-15 share consolidation to maintain earnings per share, which rose from 22.3p to 27.5p.

Tempus, page 28

Lucas chief confirmed as new head of GEC

By ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

THE General Electric Company, Britain's biggest manufacturer, yesterday confirmed its intention to appoint George Simpson, the chief executive of Lucas Industries, as managing director.

Mr Simpson, a former deputy chief executive of British Aerospace, is to succeed Lord Weinstock, who is retiring after 33 years in the senior executive role, "as soon as he is free to take up the appointment".

Discussions between

GEC's non-executive directors and the Lucas board about the timing of the move are continuing.

Mr Simpson will this morning unveil preliminary results from Lucas, the car brakes, diesel injection systems and aircraft wing-flap actuators business with annual sales of almost £3 billion. His appointment will revive speculation that GEC may seek a merger with British Aerospace.

Rank outsider, page 29



Mike Smith said there was cash to develop opportunities

Public borrowing plans head for small overshoot

By JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE Government appeared to be heading for a small overshoot of its public borrowing plans this year after figures yesterday showed a public sector borrowing requirement of £3 billion in February.

This took the cumulative PSBR for 11 months of the year to £22.6 billion against the Chancellor's Budget forecast of £29 billion for the full year. The last month of the year usually sees bumper spending by government departments as they use up their budgets. Last March, a borrowing requirement of £10.1 billion was recorded.

The City expects a modest overshoot to give a PSBR for the full year of around £31 to £33 billion. The main reason why borrowing is somewhat higher than the Government anticipated is that there has been an unexpected shortfall on tax revenues. A continuing shortfall in VAT receipts is mostly to blame. However, departmental spending was also culpable. Net departmental outlays were up 4.3 per cent over the first 11 months of the financial year compared with

the Budget forecast of £3.8 billion. February's PSBR was flattered by large privatisation receipts totalling £1.5 billion. Taking privatisation out of the borrowing equation, the PSBR last month was £4.4 billion, not much smaller than £5.1 billion in February last year.

The new year build up of confidence in the housing market continued in February but prices remained static, according to the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors. Chartered surveyor estate agents reported increasing activity in the market, particularly from those looking to buy who have been encouraged by cheap mortgage deals and lower interest rates.

But progress is in danger of being held back by some sellers sticking out for higher prices. "This is in spite of evidence that points to no significant increase in house values for the foreseeable future," RICS said. Some agents warned that confidence is still fragile and could be dampened again by a shortage of suitable properties for sale.

Pennington, page 27

Flotation to aid Harvey Nichols expansion

By SARAH BAGNALL

HARVEY NICHOLS, the upmarket Knightsbridge store is to be partially floated on the London Stock Exchange by way of a placing that could raise up to £80 million.

Dickson Concepts, the Hong Kong branded luxury goods group, yesterday revealed plans to sell up to 49.9 per cent of its holding in Harvey Nichols by way of a placing. The listing, expected this spring, will enable the single store retailer to raise funds to finance its expansion.

Harvey Nichols revealed it intends to open a clutch of smaller regional stores and, after the success of its Fifth Floor restaurant and bar at its London store, several stand-alone restaurants. The first regional store is due to open in Leeds this autumn and the retailer is looking to acquire sites in Manchester, Glasgow and Edinburgh. This summer, Harvey Nichols will open its first stand-alone restaurant at the Oxo Tower in London.

Joseph Wan, chief executive, said: "Harvey Nichols is now poised to expand beyond its Knightsbridge base with important new projects in Leeds and at the Oxo Tower. We look to the future with confidence."

Dickson Concepts bought the luxury goods and fashion store from Burton Group for £53.7 million in October 1995 and has since transformed its fortunes. Harvey Nichols recorded a £150,000 operating loss on sales of £54 million in the year to March 31, 1995. This loss was replaced with an operating profit of £6.5 million on sales of £75 million in the year to March 31, 1996.

Pennington, page 2

Advertisement for John Charcol mortgage services, featuring interest rate offers (3.99% and 4.1% APR) and contact information (0800 71 81 91).

SkyePharma to buy Swiss drugs firm for £128m

By ERIC REGULY

SKYEPHARMA, the small pharmaceuticals company formed in January by Ian Gowrie-Smith, the Australian financier, yesterday agreed to buy Jago Holding, a private Swiss drugs company, for about £128 million.

Jago has for several years been on the takeover list of Mr Gowrie-Smith, the man who in 1987 launched Medeva, a mid-sized pharmaceuticals company that became a stock market favourite. Jago is considered a leader in drug-delivery technologies and has development programmes with several large pharmaceuticals groups.

Mr Gowrie-Smith said: "It is very obvious that if you combine Jago's technology and our

distribution capability with Jago's relationships with these companies around the world, you could build a hell of a drugs pipeline."

SkyePharma is buying Jago from Jacques Gonella, who founded the company in 1983. SkyePharma is paying £104.8 million in cash, which is being raised through an open offer to existing shareholders. The indicated price will range between 84p and 100p, based on a one-for-ten share consolidation.

Mr Gonella will also receive about £23 million in ordinary SkyePharma shares, equivalent to about 8 per cent of the company, plus 20 per cent of any royalty payments above \$30 million a year that Jago collects. The royalty arrangement lasts for ten years and has been capped at a total of \$250 million.

Mr Gowrie-Smith, who will own 20 per cent of the enlarged group, said that Mr Gonella was not able to expand Jago on his own. "Jago was at the limit of its financial resources; it was 100 per cent owned by one person," he said.

Jago's most important technology is called Geomatrix, a tablet-based system that controls the release of an active drug into the bloodstream. For example, the system might release the drug several hours after the patient has ingested the tablet. The company also has a line of respiratory products, comprising metered-dose inhalers and dry-powder inhalers.

Such products are considered high-growth areas. Rhône-Poulenc Rorer, the Anglo-French pharmaceuticals company, bought Fisons of Britain last year, primarily to gain access to its inhaler technology.

Agency tonic, page 29



Follow that cab: Jamie Borwick, chief executive of Manganese Bronze Holdings, the maker of London taxis, and Hugh Lang, chairman, are upbeat with pre-tax profits in the six months to January 31 up 29 per cent at £2.54 million and a 2.5p (2p) dividend

Deadline for power bids ruling extended

By MELVYN MARCUS
CITY EDITOR

IAN LANG, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, has agreed to a request by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission for an extension of its deadline to report on National Power's £2.5 billion bid for Southern Electric and PowerGen's £1.9 billion bid for Midlands Electricity.

Mr Lang has sanctioned an extension of just under two weeks from this Friday to Thursday, April 4.

As *The Times* reported on March 6, the City expects PowerGen and National Power's bids to be cleared, subject to stringent conditions. The MMC is expected to insist on full transparency in order to aid Ofwat, the electricity regulator, led by Professor Stephen Littlechild, in its regulatory role. A decision by the MMC to insist on significant sales of generating capacity, above and beyond Professor Littlechild's directive for the disposal of 6,000 MW of plant, could prove unacceptable to the generating companies.

Professor Littlechild strongly opposes vertical integration between the power generation and regional distribution companies. Mr Lang, in contrast, has said he does not believe that vertical integration is inherently objectionable.

Midlands and Southern's share prices both rose 3p to 394p and 85p respectively.

ASW must renegotiate borrowings

ASW, the steel producer which reworks scrap metal and sells on products to the construction industry, has been forced to renegotiate its banking facilities after borrowing needs jumped beyond its agreements (Christine Buckley writes).

The Cardiff company suffered severe margin squeezes in 1995 with destocking rise in European markets. Profits for the year to December 31 were £13.8 million but that included £18.7 million from the sale of a rod mill. The loss before tax was £4.9 million. The final dividend, payable June 7, is 0.7p for a 4p total, a 33 per cent drop.

Nadir aide 'aware of her duplicity'

By JON ASHWORTH

A FORMER aide to Asil Nadir knew that she was acting dishonestly when she withdrew £400,000 in cash from a bank in Geneva, the Central Criminal Court was told yesterday. Elizabeth Forsyth could not have failed to spot the name Polly Peck International (PPI) on a bank receipt, and must have known she was handling stolen goods.

David Calvert-Smith is closing for the prosecution in

the case against Mrs Forsyth, 59, who denies two counts of handling £307,000 and £88,050 during a trip to Switzerland in October 1989. The money was allegedly stolen by Mr Nadir from PPI, and used to settle debts.

The court has heard that an equivalent sum was credited to the account of Unipac, a PPI subsidiary in northern Cyprus. Why, Mr Calvert-Smith asked, was a "convoluted,

six-stage, highly expensive route" used to settle two comparatively simple UK debts? Here was Mrs Forsyth, the "personal side" of Mr Nadir's operations, accepting PPI money. "Would she not have checked with base that this really was in order?"

Mrs Forsyth maintains she was given a valid explanation for the transfer. Geoffrey Robertson, QC, closing for the defence, said no attempt had

been made to hide the transaction. Funds paid to Unipac in northern Cyprus were routinely matched in Europe by PPI, and there was nothing to suggest that the Unipac books had been fabricated.

Mrs Forsyth left her name "all over" the transaction, and, challenged in court, made no attempt to offer a "ready-made" explanation about the vague events of 6½ years ago. The trial continues today.

PremierOil increases net profit by 179%

Preliminary Results for 1995

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- Earnings per share increased by 60%.
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- Production average 23,500 barrels of oil equivalent per day. Currently at 30,000.
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- Major refinancing completed March 1996. \$150 million 10 year US private placement and \$200 million 7 year bank facility.

Charles Jamieson, Chief Executive, comments: "Premier has set itself challenging targets for growth and profitability over the next 3 years. These record results based on a solid UK production platform and the start of returns from our overseas investment programme significantly strengthen our position as an international exploration and production company. The declaration of a maiden dividend is an indication of our confidence in the future."

To reserve your copy of the 1995 Report & Accounts to be published on 5 April, please write to: Frank Inouye, Premier Oil plc, 23 Belgrave Street, London SW1W 0NR or telephone 0171 730 1111.

Expansion sees Select profits rise

Select Appointments made pre-tax profits of £8.8 million in 1995, against £2.6 million in the previous 12 months. The increase follows a three-year plan to establish Select as an international recruitment group. It now has 30 companies operating in 18 countries. Earnings were 1.33p a share (0.55p). There is a single, final dividend of £226.7 million, including a £42.9 million contribution from acquisitions, against £89.5 million in 1994.

Astec ahead

Profits at Astec (BSR), the power conversion and electronic components group, advanced to £28.1 million before tax last year from £21 million in 1994. There was a 19.1 per cent increase in sales to £371.8 million. The company expanded its low-cost Asian manufacturing base with a third Chinese factory. Earnings were 7.33p, up from 5.86p. The total dividend rises to 1.5p a share from 1.2p, with a 1p final payable June 11.

Mayborn up

Mayborn Group, the baby accessories and fabric dyes company best known for its Tommee Tippee and Dylon brands, lifted profits to £5.6 million before tax from £4.9 million in 1995. Earnings were 18.8p, up from 16.1p. The total dividend rises to 7.2p a share from 6.4p, with a 4.95p final. The company ended the year with cash of £2 million.

Rogers post

David Rogers, 48, who resigned abruptly as chief executive of Amstrad in December following the consumer electronics group's proposed restructuring, is set to join Lucent Technologies, formerly the systems and technology business of AT&T, as president of its network systems business in Europe, the Middle East and Africa.

Happy viewing

VCI, the video and audio publishing group, saw pre-tax profits advance 39 per cent to £8.03 million in 1995. The final dividend is up 17 per cent to 4.9p (4.2p) and is payable on May 31, giving a total of 7.1p for the year, from earnings up to 17.3p (16.2p) a share. The shares rose 6p to 263p, compared with a flotation price of 150p when VCI came to the market in June 1994.

New blow in tobacco tug-of-war

FROM RICHARD THOMSON
IN NEW YORK

A FORMER scientist who worked for Phillip Morris, the world's largest cigarette manufacturer, says that the company knew tobacco could be addictive and manipulated nicotine levels to ensure continued sales.

The statement in an affidavit is a further setback for the \$45 billion US tobacco industry, which faces a rising tide of law suits and damaging allegations by former employees.

Ian Uydess's allegations against Phillip Morris contradicted repeated claims by tobacco industry executives that their research showed no evidence that nicotine was addictive. But it echoes claims by other former industry employees, including Jeffrey Wigand, former research chief at Brown & Williamson, a leading US cigarette maker owned by BAT Industries which is bringing a court case against him for revealing confidential company information.

A further blow to the industry came last week when Liggett Group, the fifth largest tobacco company, became the first to agree to pay out money after settling several large law suits, shattering the industry-wide consensus against such deals.

Analysts said this could open the floodgates to more settlements, costing the industry tens of billions of dollars.

Tempus, page 28

TOURIST RATES

	Bank	Bank
	Buy	Sell
Australia \$	2.07	1.81
Austria Sch	16.84	15.34
Belgium Fr	68.25	44.98
Canada \$	2.192	2.032
Cyprus Cyp	0.750	0.695
Denmark Kr	9.31	8.51
France Fr	7.82	7.47
Germany DM	9.12	8.37
Greece Dr	241	220
Hong Kong \$	389.00	364.00
India Ru	12.47	11.47
Italy Lit	132	0.94
Israel Shk	5,120.00	4,670.00
Japan Yen	2497.00	2342.00
New Zealand \$	175.80	169.90
Norway Kr	0.591	0.532
Netherlands Gld	2.573	2.443
Portugal Esc	209	217
Spain Ptas	163.63	154.00
Sweden Kr	10.38	9.59
Switzerland Fr	244.50	228.00
Switzerland Fr	6.54	5.74
Switzerland Fr	197.00	194.00
Switzerland Fr	10.52	10.12
Switzerland Fr	1.95	1.77
Switzerland Fr	106.00	100.00
USA \$	1.827	1.697

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

George admits to inflation pessimism

EDDIE GEORGE, Governor of the Bank of England, yesterday acknowledged that it had been "fairly consistently over-pessimistic" about prospects for inflation since sterling's departure from the exchange-rate mechanism, although less so than the majority of other forecasters. But, delivering the annual central bank lecture to the Stockholm School of Economics in Sweden, he said that it was the Bank's duty to err on the side of caution "in order to build up policy credibility against the background of the UK's unhappy track record".

But he said that this was only bias at the margin and that the Bank's credibility would not be helped if the caution was generally seen to be substantially and consistently overdone. Mr George said that Britain may have moved into a fundamentally more stable monetary environment, although the authorities still had a long way to go in persuading the financial markets of this.

Premier Oil payout

PREMIER OIL, the oil and gas exploration group, is paying its first dividend after a rise in production revenues. Shareholders will receive 0.5p a share after a rise in net profit from £9 million to £25.1 million in 1995. Earnings rose 60 per cent to 26.3p a share. Oil production rose by 9,300 barrels of oil equivalent per day to an average of 23,500, with higher production from Wyth Farm in Dorset and the inclusion of 6,000 barrels from the Scott, Ivanhoe and Rob Roy assets acquired with the takeover of Pict Petroleum early last year.

Victaulic lifts Glynwed

GLYNWED INTERNATIONAL, the engineering group, achieved a 25 per cent increase in pre-tax profits to £84 million in 1995, helped by the £145 million acquisition in June of Victaulic, the pipes and fittings company. The company predicted further progress this year after a slow first half. Glynwed said it would continue to sell off non-core businesses and increase its overseas interests to end its reliance on cyclical markets. The total dividend rises 4.1 per cent to 12.75p. A final dividend of 8.35p (8.1p) is payable on June 7.

TT Group on lookout

TT GROUP, the acquisitive industrial holding company, could comfortably raise up to £140 million to finance another purchase, said John Newman, chairman, yesterday. The company reported a rise in 1995 pre-tax profits to £44.9 million (£35.6 million). Earnings were 19.5p (16.2p) a share and the total dividend is lifted to 6.52p (5.43p), with a 4.08p final due May 23. The company ended last year with borrowings of just £1.1 million after capital expenditure of £32.6 million and acquisitions totalling £23.5 million.

MAID £4m in red

MAID, the online database company, incurred losses of £4 million before tax last year because of anticipated heavy investment costs. Profits were £1.3 million in 1994. Turnover increased by 54 per cent to £13.6 million. There is again no dividend. MAID announced it had won 600 new corporate subscribers last year and had signed up 85 new information providers. The company added that this year had started well with record revenues in January and February.

Ellis in administration

ELLIS GROUP, the construction company based in Middlesex, has been placed in administration. The company, which is the main or management contractor on 38 projects ranging in size from £500,000 to £7.5 million, blamed the failure on a shortage of working capital and late payments on a number of contracts. It employs 60 people and turnover was £20 million in 1995. Simon Freakley, the joint administrator, said it was intended to sell the company as a going concern.

Takare issues warning

TAKARE, the nursing home operator, achieved an average occupancy rate of 96 per cent in 1995 but warned shareholders that occupancy rates were likely to fall this year. The company reported 1995 pre-tax profits of £21.8 million (£21 million) after a £3 million charge against depreciation accounting changes. Earnings were 14.3p (14.5p). A final dividend of 1.7p a share, due April 26, lifts the total to 2.6p (2.3p). Capital investment was £51 million.

Wilson Bowden hopeful

WILSON BOWDEN, the housebuilder, said it has seen the start of an improving trend in house sales in 1996, although the market remains difficult to predict. Pre-tax profits fell to £29.6 million (£37.1 million) in the year to December 31. The company is maintaining the total dividend at 10.05p a share, with an unchanged 7.2p final, due on May 28. Earnings were 21.1p a share (27.1p). Earlier this month, the company announced a £10.4 million recommended offer for Trencherwood.

STATE OF VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA

ELECTION

SATURDAY 30 MARCH 1996

How to Vote in Person

If you are travelling throughout Europe, Asia or the United States, you may vote at a Postal Voting Centre at selected Australian Embassies.

For the nearest Postal Voting Centre, telephone Victoria House, London on 0171 836 2656, or enquire at any Australian Embassy.

In the UK, you may vote in person during weekdays between 9.30am and 4.30pm at Victoria House, until 4.30pm on Friday 29 March 1996.

Please note there will be no voting facilities at Victoria House on election day, Saturday 30 March.

How to Vote by Post

You may apply for postal voting material to be sent to an address nominated by you. Applications are available from Victoria House by telephoning 0171 836 2656.

Electoral Roll Enquiries

The roll for the 1996 State Election closed on 8 March 1996.

Victorian electors may make enquiries in person regarding their enrolment at Victoria House.

Australian Embassies will not be able to answer enquiries regarding enrolment for the 1996 Victorian Election. All enquiries should be made to Victoria House.

Iain MacLennan
Postal Voting Officer
London

Victoria House
Melbourne Place
Strand
London WC2B 4LG
Tel: 0171 836 2656

THE TIMES



CITY DIARY

Giving cricket a spin

TORN between listening to Lord Alexander of Wesdon on Desert Island Discs and Sri Lanka walloping Australia at cricket in Lahore last Sunday, the family of the chairman of NatWest chose the sound of leather on willow. Even the great man himself admits to having had "an ear on the radio, and an eye on the television".

Own goal

NO first-class travel, flash cars, or nights at the opera — that's the hard line at Eurotherm, where Claes Hultman, the chief executive, has put a stop to fast expense account living. However, the strict Swede, who was appointed chairman of Wembley last week, was sporting a very red face when an expenses inquiry he ordered "got out of hand".

Gas mark 0

GAS-guzzling households opening their bills over breakfast, may have wanted to read what British Gas has to say on its demerger. The front of a folded leaflet promises to reveal all, but the two inside pages are blank for some customers, except for several small gas flame symbols. The final page promises to "keep customers up to date with what is happening by sending out information with British Gas bills".



"Now what shall we buy with it?"

Bendy toy

JAMIE BORWICK, chief executive of Manganese Bronze Holdings, is a little miffed with Hugh Lang, his chairman, after he left scratches on Borwick's very own "club-class" taxicab yesterday. The blame lies with a photographer who liked Borwick's idea that the two should climb on its roof at the announcement of the company's results. "I was concerned that we might bend it a little," sighs Borwick. "It was a matter of hanging on for dear life."

Grounded Jett

JOSEPH JETT, the US bond trader who lost his job at Kidder Peabody two years ago over accusations that he engineered a \$350 million derivatives bonanza, now earns less per hour than he used to spend on a shoeshine. The man who once received multi-million dollar Wall Street bonuses is working in New York under an assumed name as a furniture removal man. The Harvard graduate is apparently broke, having spent a small fortune on lawyers to fight Kidder's accusations — and his account at Kidder, containing some \$5 million, is frozen.

THE Treasury appears to be making a move on the hapless Yorkshire Water. In a summary of the Bill to take building societies into the next millennium, it reads: "The proposed Bill will enable societies to adapt to changes in the housing market."

Medicines evaluation agency provides the right tonic

Eric Reguly on how London is fast becoming a world centre for pharmaceuticals

London is well on its way to becoming the world's pharmaceutical centre, and it's not just big-name companies that are coming here. The European Medicines Evaluation Agency, the Continent's answer to America's powerful Food and Drug Administration, has set up shop and, not that anyone noticed, has just celebrated its first anniversary.

The EMEA's first year may have passed without fanfare, but its plans are ambitious. It has leased three vast floors in the shadow of the Canary Wharf tower and is filling them with computers, libraries, scientists, canteens with multilingual menus, interpreters and meeting halls that look like a scaled-down version of the Strasbourg Parliament. John Redwood, the arch-Euro-sceptic, would not be amused.

If Ferdinand Sauer, 48, the French and EC civil servant and the EMEA's first executive director, gets his way, the agency will eventually make Europe's national medicines regulators redundant. In time, it may even emerge as part of a super-regulator, linked with the FDA and Japan to create an international agency that would allow pharmaceuticals groups to clear medicines in three of the world's biggest markets in one go.

But M Sauer is not getting his hopes up just yet. The EMEA is an embryonic body and, he admits, "may not work". Indeed, like any expanding body of the European Commission, petty rivalries and politics are threatening its existence and many of its clients, the pharmaceutical companies, are not quite sure what to make of it yet. The national regulators pose the biggest political threat; by definition, the EMEA's success can only come at the expense of the national regulators.

London got the EMEA as a consolation prize. Three years ago, when the EC began to dole out new agencies, London pitched for the European Monetary Institute, the future European Bank, which was the most glamorous name on the list. But Frankfurt was the winner, leaving London with a choice of the second-tier agencies, including environment, narcotics control and the EMEA. It went for the latter. The agency was officially created in September 1994 and opened for business six months later.

In retrospect, the move was a smart one, because London was starting to figure large on the pharmaceuticals map. In 1989, a transatlantic merger created SmithKline Beecham, one of the world's largest healthcare and drugs groups, with headquarters in London. Five years later, Glaxo launched a £9.1 billion bid for rival Wellcome and formed the world's largest pharmaceuticals group.

Then, last year, Upjohn of America and Pharmacia of Sweden joined forces to create another industry giant. They split the difference between Kalamazoo and Stockholm and made London their



Ferdinand Sauer of the EMEA outside the agency's Canary Wharf headquarters

new headquarters. Zeneca, the drugs and chemicals company pared off from ICI, is also in London. Meanwhile, the biotechnology sector began to take off. British Biotech, has come out of nowhere to have a market capitalisation of £1.3 billion.

The companies were attracted to London because of the increasingly global nature of the business. London provides them with relatively quick access to the key European and North American markets and as well as to Europe's leading financial centre. English has become the lingua franca of the industry. British universities are maintaining a long tradition of pumping out top research scientists. With the EMEA on their doorstep, the case for British chemistry grows stronger still. Germany's Bayer has already moved its regulatory division to London so that it can be close to the new agency. Others are expected to follow suit.

The EMEA is a revolutionary concept. Before its launch, drugs had to be

submitted to the national regulators for approval. The process could be laborious and expensive, especially if a company wanted Europe-wide clearance: each of the EC's 15 regulators had to give its stamp of approval.

Unlike, say, securities commissions in the US and Canada, there was no automatic mutual recognition, although in practice, three national agencies tend to set the baseline for standards worldwide: those of the United States, Britain and France.

In theory, an agency such as the EMEA will be good for business. The cliché that time is money applies to the pharmaceuticals industry like no other. Bypassing the national regulators means that drugs can reach more markets more quickly. Today, the top companies strive to launch drugs with an annual sales potential of £500 million. Saving months of tortuous regulatory proceedings could generate hundreds of millions a year in extra sales.

Operationally, the EMEA does not work like the national regulators or the

FDA. It essentially acts as a contractor, farming out most of the scientific review work to experts approved by the EC states. The final reviews are conducted at Canary Wharf. The EMEA promises to make approval decisions within 210 days of submission. The FDA, by comparison, can take as long as three years.

Once the drug is approved by the EMEA, it cannot be rejected by the national regulators; its blessing guarantees instant access to every EC country. With credentials such as this, you would think that every drug company in Europe would be beating a path to its door. They are not.

The agency has got off to a slow start, partly because its use is optional except for new biotech drugs such as vaccines. All other new products, such as anti-cancer and HIV drugs, can be submitted to either the national regulators or the EMEA. In its 13 months of operations, it has approved only seven drugs, all of them biotech drugs, against its capacity to approve some 40 drugs a year. The first was Gonal-F, an infertility treatment produced by Britain's Serono Laboratories. The most recent was Novo-7, a drug designed to reduce bleeding.

M Sauer is not surprised by the slow start. Drug companies, he says, were understandably wary about using an unproven agency, though that appears to be changing. Richard Ley, a spokesman for the Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry, says: "It is still early days, but an increasing number of pharmaceutical companies are choosing to use this centralised system. Confidence will grow in it."

They have spent decades building up relationships with the national regulators and old habits die hard. Furthermore, with the debate intensifying about how much power Brussels should have, there is no pressure yet to scrap the national regulators. "For political reasons, you cannot have the centralisation of all agencies," Mr Ley says. "The national regulators will always be necessary in the foreseeable future. But, in ten years time, it's probable that only a few national authorities will survive."

In the short term, the rivalry between the EMEA and the national regulators could turn bloody. Financing is the issue. All of the agencies' operating budgets rely on a combination of government funding and fees paid by the drug companies for approvals. These fees have become increasingly important as government budgets get squeezed. By taking business from the national regulators, the EMEA is cutting their vital flow of private financing; its ultimate goal is to rely entirely on fee income. "The national regulators get annoyed. They are considering their future and they have to compete for fees among themselves and now with us," M Sauer says.

The industry is likely nonetheless to throw its weight behind the EMEA. An EC-wide regulator, one with the clout and stature of the FDA, will eventually save tax cuts, or euros, by eliminating some or most of the national regulators. It will benefit drug companies by speeding approvals. Consumers, as a result, will get treatments more quickly. And it will help to make London the world's leading pharmaceuticals centre.



JANET BUSH

East deserves better ratings

It is a fact worth noting, as Europe's leaders prepare for the inter-governmental conference (IGC), that the Czech Republic, a former communist state that is not yet a member of the European Union, now has a better credit rating than Greece, an EU member with a long-established market economy. If that doesn't tell you something fairly acute about the pros and cons of deepening the union, as opposed to widening it, nothing else will.

Western Europe, obsessed with the Maastricht convergence criteria, doesn't seem very interested in the dramatic change going on in the old eastern bloc. The Czech Republic not only enjoys an investment-grade credit rating from the main agencies but is also now a member of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. Hungary is expected to join the OECD shortly. Poland and Slovakia both have an investment-grade rating from Moody's.

Christopher Huhne, managing director, Sovereign Ratings at IBCA, said: "The frontier of the international capital markets is heading eastwards." Hungary, Poland and Slovakia could all be EU members in or around 2000, he said. All four have reached the point of no return in their transition to market economies and integration into Western Europe. He thinks some of these are more competitive than some counterparts in Western Europe.

And yet it seems that the performance of the emerging economies of Eastern Europe is being underestimated. Their development — particularly those outside the first tier of four — depends crucially on their access to credit.

It is ironic, then, that at the first two, key stages of their progress towards full integration into the world economy, they are so dependent on the judgment of institutions that are heavily biased towards America.

In the early stages of development, as Andre Astrow, Director of the Country Risk Service of the Economist Intelligence Unit, points out, emerging economies are absolutely

stuck without the stamp of approval for their policies from the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. Both are based in Washington and have been heavily influenced by US economic ideology.

Once beyond reliance on the Bretton Woods institutions, emerging economies are then critically dependent on winning an investment-grade rating from the likes of Standard & Poor's and Moody's, both owned by huge American corporations. It is extraordinary that, only on the say-so of two or three private-sector analytical organisations, these fast-changing economies can tap the international capital markets for financing.

Laza Kekic of the EIU noted that the US rating agencies have tended — although the differences shouldn't be over-dramatised — to be less optimistic on Eastern Europe than, say, the Japanese agencies. He ascribed this partly to culture — old ideological rivalry might be more accurate — and partly to the fact that these economies were simply less familiar to the US agencies.

Japanese banks have had long-established banking relationships in countries such as Hungary and Bulgaria. IBCA, based in London, was the first to give the Czech Republic an A investment rating, subsequently followed by the US agencies.

Jonathan Hoffman of CS First Boston argues that it is well-nigh impossible to rate these economies because they are changing so rapidly. Also, because the rating organisations base their judgments on statistics currently available and not where economies will be in ten years' time, he believes that these countries are condemned to being "constantly behind the curve", as far as their ratings are concerned.

This is borne out by the fact that all the revisions of credit ratings in the Eastern European countries have been upwards. Before the IGC gets under way, let's hope that the rating agencies can give these economies ratings that are truly commensurate with their progress. Only then can their claims for inclusion in the EU be debated properly.

Weinstock opts for the heir who was not so apparent

Ross Tieman assesses the rank outsider who will succeed his lordship at GEC

So George Simpson, the shrewd, soft-spoken former carmaker, is indeed to take the helm of Britain's biggest manufacturer, The General Electric Company.

His appointment, confirmed yesterday, ends the 33-year reign of Lord Arnold Weinstock, who created the electrical and electronic engineering colossus from a fragmented British industry in the 1960s, and guided it into a bevy of international partnerships in the 1980s and 1990s.

It is a remarkable vote of confidence. For a decade or more, no one else has been good enough to fill Weinstock's chair at GEC's Stanhope Gate headquarters off Park Lane. From his plush eyrie in an otherwise austere grey office block, Lord Weinstock, now 71, has presided over a £10 billion-a-year empire with interests ranging from petrol pumps and weighing machines to power stations and fighter-plane controls.

For a decade too, the stock market has awaited his final coup: a bid for British Aerospace. And as so often before, Lord Weinstock has wrong-footed all the analysts and speculators. Weinstock may still regret the enforced sale of GEC's British Electric lighter plane business to the state-created British Aircraft Corporation more than two decades ago, but would never squander GEC's £2 billion-plus cash-pile on bidding for a company he thought encumbered by civil aerospace and property liabilities.

Many will be surprised at his lordship's choice of successor. Simon Weinstock, his son, is the company's commercial



Strategic thinking is George Simpson's hallmark

director, Peter Gershon, the former head of GFT, GEC's telecom equipment joint venture with Siemens of Germany, looked like he was being groomed for stardom. He has been winning plaudits for his present efforts to debug GEC-Marconi, the defence subsidiary that accounts for half of the parent's sales. And David Newlands, the

finance director, has worked shoulder to shoulder with his master for years. Simpson is not only an outsider, he is a man whose CV looks more like that of a company doctor than a company builder. An accountant, he joined British Leyland, repository of all the worst and best of the British motor industry, in 1969.

For 13 years he tackled one lame duck after another: Coventry Climax fork trucks, Freight Rover vans, Leyland Trucks and Rover Group were each given the Simpson treatment. Two of those businesses have since survived insolvency: the other two have since been taken over. It doesn't look such a stirring record.

Yet Leyland Trucks, LDV (the Freight Rover vans successor company) and Rover have each, in their way, become pioneering businesses. Businesses, moreover, that survive — thrive even — against the odds, on the strength of their management skill and strategy.

Strategic thinking is Mr Simpson's hallmark. In a series of recent speeches, he has been arguing that the world's automotive component industry is heading rapidly down the path of consolidation.

Since BMW of Germany took control of Rover, Mr Simpson's patient for the past two years has been Lucas, the manufacturer of diesel engine injection systems, car brakes, and actuators to move the wing flaps on aeroplanes. Lucas has been on and off the sick-list since the 1970s. Simpson's admirers say it is now showing the first signs of recovery.

But what ailment is he expected to cure at GEC? Some would say industrial sclerosis. In the past decade, GEC's pre-tax profit has grown from £730 million to £891 million. Rock steady, but uninspired. Simpson's challenge is to make the profits sparkle, without putting three decades of achievement at risk.

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It's not the years that count, it's the way you live.

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Shares close near best of day

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

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INDEX-LINKED

Table with columns: 1995 High, Low, Company, Price, % Change, P/E. Section: INDEX-LINKED.

MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)

Table with columns: 1995 High, Low, Company, Price, % Change, P/E. Section: MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years).

UNLTD

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WATER

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BRITISH FUNDS

Table with columns: 1995 High, Low, Company, Price, % Change, P/E. Section: BRITISH FUNDS.

RETAILERS, FOOD

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RETAILERS, GENERAL

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ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET

Table with columns: 1995 High, Low, Company, Price, % Change, P/E. Section: ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET.

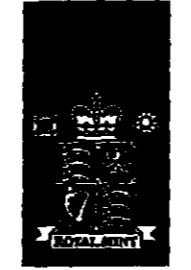
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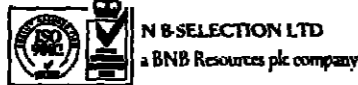
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- ◆ Implement appropriate training and development programmes. Create succession plan. Develop employee communications in a changing environment.

QUALIFICATIONS

- ◆ IPD-qualified graduate probably at board level. Manufacturing background highly desirable. Combined Public and Private Sector experience an advantage.
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- ◆ Influential, resilient and personable. Flexible management style; expert communicator and planner.

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international expatriate management experience gained within, or on behalf of a large, complex international business. Experience of investment banking is not a prerequisite, however you must have strong communication skills and be familiar with the demands of a highly intelligent and articulate professional workforce.

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Please apply in writing, enclosing a covering letter and full curriculum vitae, to our Managing Consultant:

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THE COMPANY

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- ◆ Modern, extensive, versatile fleet. Committed to customer care and preserving marine environment.

THE POSITION

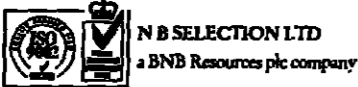
- ◆ Initially, full P&L responsibility for business unit. Contribute to strategy. Manage human and technical resources. Report to Regional Director.
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- ◆ Drive change programme. Project-manage new procedures. Medium-term progression to high profile location.

QUALIFICATIONS

- ◆ Probably graduate age 30-40. Blue-chip training followed by commercial responsibilities. Service, perhaps distribution or marine industry background.
- ◆ IR and people-management track record. Business-development and strategic-planning skills.
- ◆ Financially astute. Proven change manager. Tough, resilient, charismatic personality. An achiever and deliverer.

Please send full cv, stating salary, ref SL60303, to NBS, 7 Shaftesbury Court, Chalvey Park, Slough SL1 2ER



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THE COMPANY

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THE POSITION

- ◆ Report to Managing Director, Europe. Develop and implement effective channel strategy for region.

- ◆ Maximise revenues/profit from current partners: promote joint marketing initiatives; strengthen business-review processes.
- ◆ Develop new partnerships. Achieve growth targets. Work closely with direct-marketing teams.

QUALIFICATIONS

- ◆ Track record of developing substantial growth for a reputable IT vendor.
- ◆ Experience of managing and influencing third-party channels. Good grasp of networking, client server and enterprise-wide computing.
- ◆ Board-level credibility. Ambitious with high potential. Multicultural empathy. Willingness to travel. European languages an asset.

Please send full cv, stating salary, ref SL60302, to NBS, 7 Shaftesbury Court, Chalvey Park, Slough SL1 2ER



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West Midlands

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THE POSITION

- ◆ Report to MD. Substantially increase export sales in regions where no sales office currently operates. Motivate team.
- ◆ Manage distributor network. Appraise, monitor and support existing distributors. Negotiate new contracts.

- ◆ Formulate and achieve export sales plan. Determine pricing structure. Target regions to include Southern and Eastern Europe, the Middle and Far East.

QUALIFICATIONS

- ◆ Background in selling technical equipment, ideally electronics or software-related products. Extensive international sales experience with strategic approach.
- ◆ Familiar with managing and appointing distributors in overseas markets. Previous responsibility for P&L. Excellent managerial skills.
- ◆ Strong account manager. Commercially aware, culturally sensitive. Ability to add value. Prepared to travel extensively. Computer literate.

Please send full cv, stating salary, ref B160302, to NBS, Berwick House, 35 Livery Street, Birmingham B3 2PB



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Farnell Electronics PLC is a profitable, £500 million turnover electronics distribution organisation based at Wetherby in Yorkshire. The group has a 30 year history of unbroken profits growth; it is the biggest electronics distributor in the UK, a major player in Europe and, with an aggressive programme of international acquisition, promises to be one of the biggest in the world. To continue this enviable growth record, a major programme of management development is in place, creating the need to appoint an exceptional training and communications professional.

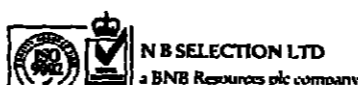
THE POSITION

- ◆ Take responsibility for control and development of management training programme for UK sites and European subsidiaries.
- ◆ Prepare and implement fast-track management programme, identifying key managers for succession planning.
- ◆ Drive internal communications programmes, ensuring high standards of information exchange throughout the group.

QUALIFICATIONS

- ◆ Graduate-calibre manager. Combination of line management experience and senior training/communications expertise. European languages desirable.
- ◆ First-class, multilevel communication skills. Comfortable in dynamic, unstructured, team-oriented environment.
- ◆ Assertive, enthusiastic and diplomatic. Practical hands-on approach. Commanding presence.

Please send full cv, stating salary, ref LD60301, to NBS, Yorkshire House, Greek Street, Leeds LS1 5SX



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Future prospects are truly outstanding as is the remuneration package which consists of a high basic salary, commission, car and full benefits. A full relocation package is available.

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LAW

MORE LAW 35-38
LAW REPORT 21



In torment: Caroline Beale is escorted from the Supreme Court in New York by her lawyer, Michael Dowd, left, and her father, Peter

Gary Slapper on the way English law deals with women who kill their children

Mothers and madness

I believe that any law that grants a blanket exemption from prosecution or punishment to those people who kill their children under the age of one is a law that is primitive and uncivilised. Granting parents a law to kill their children harkens to uncivilised times. I say to our friends in Britain, God bless America.



Judge Robert Hanophy: no blanket exemption in US

This is what Robert Hanophy, a New York State Supreme Court judge, said earlier this month when he replied to the remark of Caroline Beale's father, Peter, who had condemned the indictment of his daughter for murder of her newborn baby as "a cruel and medieval prosecution".

Under English law, the 1938 Infanticide Act provides that when a woman kills her child of under 12 months, what would ordinarily be murder is reduced to manslaughter if, at the time of the killing, "the balance of her mind was disturbed by reason of her not having fully recovered from the effect of giving birth to the child or by reason of the effect of lactation".

In England the first piece of legislation on this issue was the Stuart Bastardy Act of 1623. This Act allowed for a presumption that the death of any illegitimate child was caused by its mother, whose execution was allowed without any proof that she was the killer or even that it had been killed. This Act ran for nearly 200 years before it was repealed. But even after it was repealed, most convictions result in probation.

are, of course, particularly sickening crimes, and ones where, under English law, the State can prosecute for murder. Even in those cases, to label the killer "bad" and not "mad" is contentious.

But there is evidence that many mothers kill in an unpremeditated incident, when they are deeply disturbed - and whether the disturbance is biochemical or environmental or both hardly matters. To deny any special defence to such killers, as Judge Hanophy appears to argue, and treat them as presumptively wicked is to wish to return to principles of law regarded here as intolerably primitive in the 1920s.

Addison bites back

COULD the Shadow Home Secretary Jack Straw's enthusiasm for reforming the Crown Prosecution Service have anything to do with Neil Addison, its former senior prosecutor? Since Mr Addison departed from the CPS in the wake of a series of critical articles, he is enjoying a new life as a barrister in private practice. "I have rejoined the Labour Party and the Society of Labour Lawyers - and have certainly expressed my views to Jack Straw," he says.

Judicial campaign A CAMPAIGN to oust the Lord Chancellor from the Cabinet has been launched by a pressure group called Action for Justice. The group,

INNERS AND OUTS

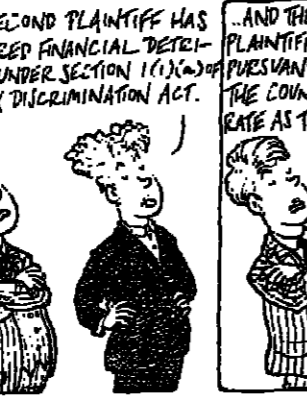
which claims about 1,000 members, has placed advertisements in national newspapers to drum up support. Its latest ad reads: "The head of the judiciary is in the Cabinet and implicated in all government decisions judges may be seen to be compromised by that decision... Until the Lord Chancellor leaves the Cabinet, the judiciary's moral authority will be in dispute."

activists. We felt there was no remedy in the courts over such things as rail privatisation - and there ought to be." Press freedom THE Defamation Bill now going through Parliament has come under fire in Media Lawyer, a new newsletter for media lawyers and journalists. It is produced by Tom Welsh, the editor of McNaee's Essential Law for Journalists, the reporters' media law bible.

Model weapon

THE leading Birmingham commercial law firm of Eversheds is cutting a dash in the local business community. The five-strong marketing team includes Beverley Western, who combines her work at Eversheds with a burgeoning modelling career. Hamish Munro, the marketing director, says: "She could prove to be our secret weapon."

QUEEN'S COUNSEL



The legal art of chucking out

Self-help entitles a person to use reasonable force

When the solicitor Allen Chubb drew Laura Harold out of his office and into the street, he was trying to follow the long and honourable legal tradition of self-help. He overdid it and was convicted of assault occasioning actual bodily harm and false imprisonment. The unsuccessful defence was that Mrs Harold was a trespasser and that Chubb was entitled to use reasonable force to eject her from his London offices.



PATRICK STEVENS

Traditionally, the law has favoured self-help by aggrieved plaintiffs although the modern tendency has been to retreat from the robust attitude of the earlier judges. The ninth edition of Street on Torts primly noted that such matters "are fully dealt with in the seventh edition of this work and will not be discussed further here".

There was a brief moment as he clutched the door frame but I carried on pushing and got him out of the door. As I went back to my room, I remembered that Mr Ludford had recently complained of being assaulted by one of the local court clerks, although not to the extent of having his finger bitten off. I phoned the police to explain what had happened and found I had already been reported for assault. The police came to interview me, which for some reason they found highly amusing. Fortunately for me, Mr Ludford had reported so many people for assault that the chief superintendent had issued instructions that all files were to be rapidly passed to him for "no further action".

Unfortunately, Mr Ludford decided to entertain himself by making abusive comments about me to the receptionist. She was able to cope with this but when he rounded on her and made unfavourable remarks about the size of her bottom, she felt that enough was enough and called me down. I went down with a certain amount of trepidation and told Mr Ludford to leave. He refused. I then said that if he did not go then I would use reasonable force. I asked the receptionist to make a note that I was only going to use reasonable force. She seemed somewhat disappointed that I was not prepared to use much stronger measures as a punishment for the insult to her.

Dr Gary Slapper is principal lecturer in law, Staffordshire University.

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THE DEFENDANT IS IN BREACH OF AN ORAL PROMISE TO PAY MONIES TO THE FIRST PLAINTIFF.

THE SECOND PLAINTIFF HAS SUFFERED FINANCIAL DETRIMENT UNDER SECTION 1(1)(a) OF THE SEX DISCRIMINATION ACT.

AND THE FIRST AND SECOND PLAINTIFFS CLAIM INTEREST PURSUANT TO SECTION 69 OF THE COUNTY COURTS ACT AT THE RATE AS THE COURT THINKS FIT.

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Your brief will be to evaluate the implications of change, to anticipate all issues that may arise and then develop the effective solutions which will maintain standards and improve overall performance. This will involve liaising with line managers and co-ordinating their activities to ensure goals are agreed and understood and all targets achieved.

The scale and scope of the challenge demands an exceptional appreciation of business process re-engineering, together with impressive change management experience gained in a software development or large user environment. First-class communication skills and a flexible, innovative approach are essential together with a university degree or equivalent.

In return, you can look forward to an excellent salary and benefits package. Salary will not be a limiting factor for the ideal candidate.

Write to Patrick Donnelly, with full CV including contact telephone numbers and salary details, quoting reference ST/134.

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Your brief will encompass the management and negotiation of all SLA arrangements with external suppliers and internal customers. You'll need to be dynamic with energy to tackle some of the major issues facing the organisation as it grows, possessing outstanding interpersonal skills, strong man-management capabilities and the ability to deliver to agreed objectives. With a structured and systematic approach to planning and implementing, whilst operationally sensitive, you are going to be a key influencer in the management of change in the organisation. Experience of managing suppliers and negotiating Service Level Agreements would be highly beneficial. With a minimum of two years' managing a related operation, your dynamic 'hands-on' management

style will be supported with a good technical appreciation of both IBM and DEC host systems and communications networks.

To discuss this superb opportunity, please send your details to Nicholas Marsh, Managing Consultant, Austin Knight UK Limited, Knightway House, 20 Selsby Square, London W1A 1DS quoting reference A1030. Alternatively telephone Nick on: 0171 439 5750, or fax your CV on 0171 439 5744, or by using E-Mail: NM@austinknight.co.uk. CompuServe: 101511.2562

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Applications are invited in the strictest confidence, together with a full CV and covering letter (which must state your current salary and benefits package) to:

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Lovell White Durrant is one of the largest European based international law firms, providing a broad range of domestic and international legal services to leading corporates and financial institutions throughout the world. As a result of a recent promotion, we are seeking to recruit an additional business analyst. The role offers a real opportunity to make a substantial impact on the business.

As a member of the firm's marketing team you will be responsible for presenting up to date and concise information on our clients and the markets within which they operate. This will involve analysis of financial results, media comment and overall commercial, economic and political factors which may affect clients' business. This analysis will be used as an invaluable tool in supporting our day to day marketing activities and overall strategic planning.

The successful candidate will need to be committed and flexible in order to fulfil this intellectually challenging role. Having recently graduated in economics or a similar field, you will have work experience in a City or consultancy environment. You will have strong organisational skills, an ability to work autonomously and possess good communication skills, both written and oral. An MBA and language skills would be advantages.

The salary and benefits package includes Profit-Related-Pay and private medical insurance.

If you are interested in applying for this position please write, enclosing a CV and indicating your current salary, to Miss Jean Young, Personnel Manager, Lovell White Durrant, 65 Holborn Viaduct, London EC1A 2DY. Closing date for applications 31st March 1996.



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and managing different types of projects from planning to successful handover and beyond. Experience of working in a life or financial services organisation, either in a practitioner or consultancy role, is essential. Good interpersonal and presentation skills and the ability to build good working relationships at all levels are, of course, expected.

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To apply, please send full career details, indicating current salary, to Mr Indi Seehra, Personnel Manager, United Friendly Insurance plc, 42 Southwark Bridge Road, London SE1 9HE. Closing date for applications: Friday 29th March 1996.

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Our organisation operates almost as a Systems House and is extremely sales driven. I.T. is therefore at the forefront of our strong commercial and technical growth. It must deliver and be seen to be a key part of gaining the competitive business edge in our ever changing and dynamic marketplace. It is therefore a pre-requisite that the appointed candidate should have either current or recent past experience working for a services-led I.T. consultancy, systems integrator or software house where he or she will have managed a number of high profile I.T. systems integration projects, all of which in their own way were of strategic business importance.

Probably aged between early 30's and early 40's and preferably of graduate calibre, you will be familiar with PC based solutions, preferably gained in a strong, customer-focused commercial environment, using current Client/Server technologies, including database retrieval and possibly imaging techniques. As our organisation makes extensive use of Facilities Management for our mainframe and networking capabilities, exposure to outsourcing would be an appropriate asset, as would past expertise in IBM mainframe-led systems development.

The culture of our organisation is one of a fast-moving and highly challenging commercial and technical environment. The successful candidate will therefore need to demonstrate considerable personal attributes, including the versatility to recommend and accept change, first class interpersonal and team playing skills, and the vision to be highly creative and innovative.

If you feel stimulated by this challenging, exciting and unique career opportunity, please send a covering letter and CV, including current salary details and daytime telephone number to our advising consultants at Harvey Nash Plc, 13 Bruton Street, London W1X 7AH (Tel: 0171-333 0033). Please quote reference number HN1938.

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Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire

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We offer our customers the widest choice of market-leading products in Europe backed by a diverse range of Service products ranging from support and maintenance to consultancy and integration assistance.

These three roles in Services marketing provide the opportunity to be part of the fastest growing division in a company that operates in the UK's fastest growing sector. The pace is exhilarating!

International Product Manager

In this high-profile international marketing role you will drive the continued growth of our Services division by influencing key channels to buy into 3Com Service offerings. Working across the whole 3Com portfolio, you will develop Service products for diverse markets around the globe. Although you will manage an existing portfolio of Service products, the emphasis will be on new and enhanced Services and the associated market research, strategy, planning, pricing and roll out.

Your sound commercial instincts will have been honed during at least three years' experience in the marketing of Services within the IT or telecomms industry, as will your technical understanding. Educated to degree level, you'll be an excellent communicator both on paper and in person, with the ability to influence on an international scale. A willingness to travel is essential while a second language would be useful. Ref: 279937.

European Marketing Communications Specialist

We see the presentation of our Service products as an important way of differentiating ourselves in this competitive market. This is an opportunity to work on the full mix of marketing communications for diverse audiences within a complex international sales environment. In charge of all Service marketing communications across Europe, you will be responsible for initiating and managing traditional direct marketing activities such as newsletters, advertising and regional collateral. Acting as a local contact for European press and PR events, you will also manage participation in local trade shows.

To succeed in this highly visible role, you should have at least five years' business experience in marketing communications which should have included European responsibilities, along with clear evidence of an ability to plan and execute complex projects. Travel will be an essential part of the role. Ref: 279938.

European Partner Programme Manager

What do 3Com's business partners need to help them sell our products and services? How can we make sales easier for them? As our Partner Programme Manager, you'll look for the answers. Very much the partners' champion, you'll spend time out in the field with resellers but will also undertake extensive analysis of customer service data to identify underlying problems and trends. You'll then work with colleagues to translate your findings into practical solutions.

This is a challenging role which demands empathy with the customer and an attention to quality standards combined with sound commercial acumen and the ability to get things done. It would suit a successful sales person looking for a new challenge or, possibly, a customer services professional with a track-record of addressing problems proactively. Five or more years in a technology company, including experience of working with Channel Partners is vital. The ability to establish credibility and wield influence with internal contacts will be essential. Ref: 279939.

We offer a salary to match your experience and expertise along with a genuinely outstanding benefits package including generous car scheme, health insurance, pension and a stock purchase scheme. Continued growth means new opportunities arise continually and the scope for career development is virtually unlimited. If you are interested, please write, enclosing full career and salary details to our retained consultant Jeremy Burnell, Executive Division, Michael Page Sales and Marketing, Windsor Bridge House, Brocas Street, Eton, Berkshire SL4 6BW. e-mail: 101377.636@compuserve.com

3Com

Will magistrates see the light?

A report is to go soon to the Lord Chancellor detailing the training needs for the 2,000 new magistrates who annually join the bench. The report comes, according to a spokeswoman for Lord Mackay of Clashfern, in response to requests from magistrates themselves.

She said: "Many magistrates had described the existing training methods as too onerous, and irrelevant."

Critics of magistrates, however, say that the report is a direct result of the exposure of inadequate standards on the bench. In one notable case the High Court ordered costs of £10,000, incurred during an appeal, to be paid by magistrates after they jailed a peace protester. Magistrates were also heavily criticised when a Home Office report exposed huge regional variations in sentencing. One Essex court had failed to imprison a single criminal throughout a year of hearing cases. Similar cases in a Staffordshire court led to one in six of those convicted being sent to court.

Paul Boateng, Labour's front-bench legal spokesman, believes that such anomalies can be traced to training standards among magistrates. "The lay magistracy plays a crucial role in the justice system," he says. "However, magistrates are faced with an endless barrage of conflicting signals from the Government and its supporters.

"They are entitled to support and a high quality of training nationwide. At the moment training standards between regions vary, and that is totally unacceptable."

Mr Boateng thinks magistrates

Will Hanrahan describes how video came to the aid of the unpaid judges

ing legal teaching organisations. It backed the Exeter initiative by financing a professional production of the video, which has so far sold to 60 magistrates divisions.

"We have covered our costs," says the organisations' Chris Mellor. "We weren't certain the project would ever be self-financing; but we recognised a need."

In what could be a signal for future training methods, the Lord Chancellor's Department has welcomed the use of television in training. "So long as what is taught is part of the syllabus," an official said, "it can only be a good thing."

The video covers four training areas:

- Bail;
- Sentencing;
- Mode of trial;
- Trials.

Each programme is followed by a seminar and written back-up. The cases reveal the style and type of hearing that magistrates can expect. The project was filmed in a court with staff playing the roles of the accused, prosecutor, duty solicitor and court usher.

Video training alone, however, is unlikely to be enough for Mr Boateng. He would like to see consistent standards implemented throughout England and Wales. "I warmly applaud individual benches targeting specific crimes in their areas. Local JPs know best what is worrying their community. However, there are certain basic standards which must be upheld."

● The author, a BBC producer and television presenter, helped to devise the 90-minute training programme for new magistrates.



The DPP goes to China to defend suspects' rights

Frances Gibb reports on an unexpected role for Barbara Mills, QC

Barbara Mills, QC, is not usually cast in the role of defender of suspects' rights. But the Director of Public Prosecutions found herself doing just that on a recent ten-day trip to China.

The Chinese prosecuting authorities are looking at reforms that would shift their criminal justice system a little closer to that in Britain although they worry, Mrs Mills says, that changes might impede their ability to fight crime.

She adds: "I could give examples from our experience here: when we introduced changes such as tape-recording of interviews, we had people expressing the same concerns. But the more openness you have, the easier it is."

Mrs Mills was invited by the Chinese as part of the general opening-up process. Bar and Law Society leaders have already visited the republic and spoken with the legal profession there.

"Before 1979 they were almost living in a walled city," she says. "Since then the changes have been dramatic, the economy has been booming and everything has been affected."

The Chinese authorities have already come to Britain and a programme for their prosecutors is being organised. The idea of the DPP's visit, therefore, was to enable her to see for herself some of the "major differences" between the two criminal justice systems.

Those differences are fundamental. Jury trial does not exist and there is only a limited role for defence lawyers. The Chinese prosecutors have a prosecuting function similar to that of Crown prosecutors; but there the comparison ends. The procurators are central and all-powerful in the justice system; they have a supervisory role over police, courts and prisons to ensure that legal procedures are fulfilled. "If the police don't abide by the law, the procurators will reject the work they've done and the

case will not proceed." Mrs Mills says. They have a similar role over the courts — "which is completely alien to the way we think. They ensure that the court considers everything."

She visited the procuratorates — or prosecuting authorities — in Peking, Tianjin and Shanghai and also observed a murder trial. Once a case reaches court, and has survived the weeding-out of weak cases by the procuratorate, the defendant is assumed to be guilty. The trial is more investigative than accusatorial, with the judge asking questions; and the defence lawyer seeking only to mitigate the sentence. She says: "The defendant cooperates all the way through."

Mrs Mills also visited a prison which, she thought, stood comparison with British jails — although she accepts that it was new and one of the best. Prisoners had "quite a lot of freedom, recreation. They had televisions, a running track and so on

— and the prisoners appeared well-fed and looked after." Sentences are far heavier than in Britain.

The Chinese are not in any way contemplating a move to the British justice system. "They thought the idea of juries very strange," Mrs Mills says. And courts are closed to the public unless the judge orders.

But change is afoot: her visit coincided with the annual meeting of the People's National Congress, at which there was much discussion on proposals for a new law on criminal procedure. Reforms include more control over police powers early in a case, greater access to defence solicitors for suspects in the early stages, and a bigger role for lawyers in the court process.

Details have still to be worked out. Who will pay for the lawyers (there is no legal aid) and from where will the lawyers come? There is a shortage. But the aim is for the changes to take effect this October.



Barbara Mills, QC: dramatic changes

Small claims winners lose

MORE THAN one in three people who pursue successful claims in the small claims court fail to recover any money from their opponent, the National Audit Office reported last week. Its survey of 3,000 cases found, overall, a high level of satisfaction with the way in which small claims are handled in the county courts. But although 94 per cent of plaintiffs obtained judgment in their favour, only 54 per cent recovered all or part of their claim and 36 per cent recovered nothing. In 22

per cent of cases, this was because the defendant had no assets, in others because the defendant could not be found.

□ ANDREW LOCKLEY, one of the Law Society's most senior officials, is leaving the society at the end of April after 14 years to take up posts with Irwin Mitchell (heading the firm's professional services unit) and at the University of Sheffield's law department. Mr Lockley, 44, is director of the society's corporate and regional affairs department. The move comes after policy clashes with Martin Mears, the President, but Mr Lockley says he is

leaving because he wanted to move outside London.

□ A LONDON law firm has launched a fixed-price conveyancing package to attract clients aged under 30. The package, from Cumberland Ellis Peirs, includes a will, advice on financial services, a free half-hour consultation and a taxation advice service. The firm is charging £400.

□ THE BAR is exporting its advocacy skills to South Africa under a training programme jointly funded by the UK and South African Governments. Michael HILL

QC has recently returned from leading a team of ten senior barristers and an administrator on a three-week trip to help the South African Bar to set up an advocacy training programme. They helped to train 50 advocacy teachers and held workshops for pupil barristers.

□ LAST Cawthra Feather, a Bradford law firm, has agreed to fight Yorkshire Water on a "no win, no fee" basis on behalf of 60 people who suffered serious bouts of sickness in June 1993. Yorkshire Water denies a link between the illnesses, caused by a parasite, and the breakdown of a water treatment works.

FRANCES GIBB

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WEST END
If you are a 2-4 years construction employment solicitor looking to move to one of the major West End firms then this vacancy will appeal to you. You must have dedicated experience and an affiliation with this area of the law. The remuneration and prospects are excellent for a forward thinking individual. Ref: T/013034.

EMPLOYMENT
If you are a 2-4 years construction employment solicitor looking to move to one of the major West End firms then this vacancy will appeal to you. You must have dedicated experience and an affiliation with this area of the law. The remuneration and prospects are excellent for a forward thinking individual. Ref: T/013034.

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Edward Fennell explains why modern lawyers need hired expertise to help them to win cases

Is there a private 'tec on our books?

Going to law is like going to war. The frontline legal "teeth" of solicitors and barristers are increasingly dependent on a "tail" of technological and other services which may be vital in running a case.

Take the recent Maxwell brothers' trial. Among a range of services summoned up by the Serious Fraud Office, the most public was ShowCase, an electronic courtroom presentation system. ShowCase provides an instant electronic record of what has been said in court and enables the barristers to call up key documents which have been put into its database.

No longer is there a need to rifle through piles of files: an image of a piece of evidence can be called up on a screen at the tap of a computer key.

Legal Technologies Limited, the company that provided ShowCase, is an advanced example of the modern legal support service. ShowCase draws on the latest skills to provide an information technology (IT) service to meet the needs of lawyers. Legal Technologies is now working regularly with the top 30 law firms in London and is also

starting to penetrate the regional law market.

Anna Walsh, the company's spokeswoman, says: "With database and CD-Rom technology, a lawyer can carry 30,000 pages in a briefcase on two CDs. The location of a firm in relation to documents and the client becomes less significant and data exchange more speedy and efficient."

So what is available in London and Leeds today will be operating in Luton and Lowestoft tomorrow. Other services being used regularly by commercial practices throughout the UK include headhunters and recruitment companies, needed because of the volatile nature of the legal employment market.

Among the latest entrants to the field is A. T. Kearney Executive Search, its lead consultant, Anna Panton, says that many law firms are very precise about the kind of senior lawyers they want to attract in order to develop a corporate business plan. She emphasises that detailed research is a prerequisite for any successful search assignment. "We undertake original research for every assignment and work very hard at the preliminary stage to identify the people who

might fit the profile the client is seeking," she says. "We never simply draw on an existing list of possible candidates."

It is a sign of the times that most lawyers, when approached by headhunters, are deeply flattered and interested in the offer that might be made. The traditional allegiance to the partnership ideal seems to have been pretty well abandoned. Everyone, it seems, is waiting for the offer they can't refuse.

Confidentiality is, of course, the key to the headhunters' code. But that comes as second nature to most lawyers because discreet inquiries are often at the heart of a lawyer's work. So much so, in fact, that the use of private detective services is now a regular feature of many solicitors' practices.

From teasing out financial information in possible frauds to tracking down children in cases of custody, the private investigator has an important role in the life of many law firms. Drawn largely from the ranks of former police men and women (especially those from Scotland Yard), the importance of the professional investigator seems to be growing.



Online for justice: Priscilla Coleman's drawing for ITN of a mortgage fraud case

As Roger Wooley, the business development partner at the Bournemouth firm Lester Aldridge, says: "We have a network of about 25 private investigators in the UK whom we use. We know them well, trust them, and we keep going back so long as they continue to provide a reliable service. We

expect them to be as professional as we are ourselves."

The decision to use these services is part of the managerial skills of a law firm. In some cases money may be no object, but clients are going to look very critically at the results achieved by bringing in additional services. It is bound to push up the

overall price of the case. But it could also make the difference between winning and losing.

This is most acutely felt when it comes to expert witnesses. Though reforms to the current system have been proposed, we are still in a situation where each side, in a matter of litigation, can present sup-

posedly neutral expert witnesses. Sometimes it is the evidence given by these expert witnesses that can be crucial in court. Consequently, many experts are now available on the market as expensive "hired guns", who are able to produce a smooth court performance and convincing expertise.

In the case of forensic accountants, they may appear in court only rarely but their work in calculating the size of losses, damages or costs can provide the foundation of an action. Major firms such as KPMG and Binder Hamlyn, for example, offer far-ranging, forensic-accountancy services that converge on real detective work. And as business goes global, so, too, do the services of lawyers and those who work with them.

Linguists, bailiffs, IT consultants, search-and-recruitment specialists—the list of the experts used by lawyers is becoming ever longer and more diverse. Effective team work is essential. But effective leadership from the lawyer is what ensures that this whole operation delivers results for the client.

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POP Unsung hero? A superb gig at the Mean Fiddler confirms the abounding talent of Joe Ely



WORLD A little of Brazil, a hint of jazz, a touch of classical: Egberto Gismonti's eclectic sound comes to London

THE TIMES ARTS



THEATRE 1 Plenty of fun in a touring production of The Frogs, but not Aristophanes's deeper meaning



THEATRE 2 Nice movement, shame about the speeches in Nigel Charnock's latest show, Watch my Lips

POP: David Sinclair is spellbound by one of the best-kept secrets in the country-rock world

Outlaw who can't get arrested

Joe Ely Mean Fiddler, NW10

What can be going through Joe Ely's mind as he starts another show at the Mean Fiddler? It is, to be sure, the finest honky-tonk in Harlesden, and on Friday night the bar is crammed to its 600 capacity. But, like the character in one of his songs, it must seem to him that "though so much time has passed, not that much has changed".

Now 48, Ely has gone beyond the point of playing the same game. Indeed, when the Texan arrived in Britain ten days ago, he declared himself unavailable for interviews, if anyone was asking, even though he remains virtually unknown beyond a small coterie of fervent admirers.

His 1970s band, the Flatlanders, became highly regarded as forerunners of country-rock, but only after they had split up. He tasted the fruit of wider acclaim when the Clash took him on tour in 1980 and he became an honorary, if somewhat unlikely, cult figure to the punk generation. But in 1996 he is surely just one more roadhouse veteran, seeing out his performing years the only way he knows how. Another day, another dollar, right?

Wrong! As he and his four-piece band wrap up a superb reading of Robert Earl Keen's The Road Goes On Forever, a typical tale of young love blighted by a life of crime, Ely seems genuinely taken back by the intensity of the applause. And it quickly becomes apparent that with the songs from his new album,



A godfather of country rock, and a hero of punk after touring with the Clash, Joe Ely is still stuck at square one in the mainstream fame game

Letter to Laredo, Ely has added yet another colour to a musical palette that already includes a vibrant mix of country, blues, rock, Tex-Mex and western swing.

This new dimension is provided by a Spanish flamenco guitarist called Tey, who sits on a stool at stage right, resplendent in a sequined mariachi jacket and a black

sombrero. On numbers such as I Saw It In You, Saint Valentine and the galloping Run Preciosa, he complements the yearning emotion of Ely's vocals with the most wonderfully stirring trills and crisp arpeggios, plucked with fiery precision on a nylon-stringed acoustic guitar. His solo introduction to Letter to Laredo is sensational, and

perfectly sets the scene for another story about a desperado doomed to roam the badlands with a "five-number bounty" on his head.

Whether because of a failure of judgment or nerve, though, Tey is laid off about three quarters of the way through, and Ely turns the stage over to his other guitarist, Jesse Taylor, a tattooed old-stager who

was a member of his first backing group in 1976. A conventional, Eric Clapton-influenced blues-rock player, Taylor steers the band back to more familiar territory, and while it is fun to hear old favourites such as Dallas and Me and Billy the Kid, the magic dissipates as they switch to autopilot for a version of the Buddy Holly and

the Crickets hit, Oh Boy. However, an encore of Terry Allen's Gimme a Ride to Heaven, Boy justifiably produces an ecstatic response, and for Ely it is clearly a case of striking a balance between indulging his sense of adventure and playing within the limits of his game. The road goes on forever, and he still has a long way to go.

When Egberto Gismonti performs at the Barbican this Thursday, he will confound all the facile notions we have of Brazil, of Brazilians, and of their musical sounds. Gismonti's is not the honey-fanned face from a tourist poster, nor is his music the loose-limbed and languid affair that we have come to expect from his land. Taxonomers of music find him maddening: how on earth, they have asked themselves for 30 years, does one classify the stuff he composes and plays? Is it jazz? Is it classical? And is it even "Brazilian"?

The answer only adds a fresh knot to the problem. Gismonti's music is as eclectic as the many influences which have given it nourishment. These influences, when processed in his austere, uncluttered mind, have yielded a singular style — one that crosses every musical boundary while laying claim, at the same time, to the acre of each genre.

Gismonti is just past the halfway stage of an extended tour which began in Buenos Aires in the last days of February and which ends in the Spanish city of Valencia on March 28. London, hence for Brazilian musicians, and not merely because of the curious habit of Anglophilia which people from Brazil appear to share.

Gilberto Gil and Caetano Veloso, the two Brazilian musicians Britain knows best, spent time in London in the

Awful lot of echoes in Brazil

The stunning guitarist and pianist Egberto Gismonti defies classification, says Tunku Varadarajan



Gismonti: capable of moving between wildly different genres within a single piece

early 1970s in exile from the repressive military regime which ruled their country at the time. Gismonti is as fine a musician as Gil and Veloso — and many would argue that he surpasses them by his invention — but he has scarcely a fraction of the acclaim that they have won. In fact, The Rough Guide to World Music, which trumpets his name, makes not a single mention of him in nearly 700 pages.

Why is Gismonti not better known? The reason for this is, perhaps, straightforward: he is a cerebral guitarist and pianist, always coaxing his rigorous technique into newer, ever more daring directions. Gil and Veloso, by comparison, sing in a beautiful language — Portuguese — to lively melodies. Their music is easy to listen to, compellingly simple. But Gismonti does his

listeners' attention as he moves mercurially from genre to genre, often within the same composition.

His classical training with the renowned Nadia Boulanger is everywhere apparent: a typical Gismonti composition plays out in extended form, with themes and variations. Boulanger taught him how to play the piano in Paris and he returned to Brazil and taught himself how to play the guitar. With these instruments — but

primarily the latter, of which he plays everything from the six to 14 string versions — Gismonti has moulded his own singular idiom.

There is a rich seam of jazz in his music (he has played and recorded with the saxophonist Jan Garbarek, the bassist Charlie Haden and the percussionist Naná Vasconcelos). There is often a homage to Ravel or Debussy or Bach in his piano; or a flavour of Stravinsky in his syncopa-

tions, or of Philip Glass in the ostinato patterns on his guitar. At his most stylish there are also frequent flamenco infusions of Segovia and traditional samba, choro, bossa, baião, even frevo, all from Brazil.

Above all, it is Heitor Villa-Lobos, Brazil's only outstanding classical composer, who has consistently been his exemplar. Like him, Gismonti has submerged himself in the melodies and rhythms of Bra-

zilian folk music, melding them with the conventions and instruments of Europe. Yet while Villa-Lobos made the folk-tune classical, Gismonti has made the folk-tune... well, Gismonti.

Gismonti's musical path — where the new continent meets the old — was not cut by Villa-Lobos alone. Mention must be made of the illustrious Pixinguinha, who married his choro to the fox-trot and rag-time; and of Laurindo Almeida's jazz-samba.

Gismonti owes a debt, also, to Hermeto Pascoal, the fat, white-bearded albino from Alagoas, in northeast Brazil. His was the most free-wheeling music in Brazil before Gismonti's, and Pascoal's hunger for new sounds liberated a generation of musicians from their captivity to particular forms.

But Gismonti's range also includes his country's Amerindian music, which he studied while living with a tribe near the Xingu River. An earlier album, Sol do Meio Dia, was shaped by his association with Spain, an Indian shaman. At his last concert in London in March last year, a short Amerindian tune played as an encore on a reed flute was perhaps the highlight of the evening. Will he play it again this year? Do not bet on it, for there is no musician in the world harder to predict than Egberto Gismonti — even in Brazil.

● Egberto Gismonti performs at the Barbican, Silk St, London EC2 (0171-638 3891) on Thursday at 7.30pm

Deep truths left in the shallows

IF Aristophanes's The Frogs is not absurd, scurrilous and funny, then it croaks with an alien voice and deserves to croak in another sense, too. But if we do not feel that somewhere inside the comedy there is a deep concern for Athens and a touching belief in the power of drama to change things for the better, the play is equally incomplete. After all, it was written in 405 BC, just a year before the long war against which Aristophanes had crusaded in Peace and Lysistrata was to end in his city's humiliating defeat.

Fiona Laird recognises this fully in her programme notes, adequately in her translation of the play, and barely at all in the touring production that is passing through the Cottesloe en route to Cardiff and Cumbernauld, Watford, Hexham and elsewhere. Under her direction, one side of The Frogs fills the National's lily ponds with cheerful noises while the other has yet to swim to the surface.

Cuts notwithstanding, the story survives intact. It still involves the descent into Hades of the patron god of drama, Dionysus, in search of a playwright to bring back to ailing Athens. Once there, he holds a contest between the recently dead Euripides and the long-gone Aeschylus. Which will have the better influence? The answer is not the sceptical Euripides but the champion of gods and heroes, Aeschylus. For all his satire, Aristophanes was a conservative aristocrat — although you would not guess so from Laird's adaptation, which seeks to disguise the fact that he tended to identify low morals with lowly birth.

There is nothing especially wrong, though, with letting Richard Henders transform Dionysus — a pretty feeble

THEATRE The Frogs Cottesloe

figure in the original — into a Presley clone who struts about in gold lamé with leopard-skin cuffs and sings "I'm a stranger in Hades", while the rest of a gaudy-looking cast wiggles behind him.

Nothing wrong, either, with staging the dramatic contest as a TV quiz show with Euripides the working-class wrestler (Nicholas Tigg) viciously badmouthing Aeschylus the powdered 18th-century noble (Clive Hayward). I laughed especially at a grumpy Charon who rasps "all aboard for Hades" at travellers he finds dilatory.

The chief problem is the chorus, which is reduced to two women, one sporting platinum curls and dazzling blue, the other a black beehive and exotic pink. Suggestions that this jokey duo exists to give useful advice seem preposterous. So do their complaints against political folly and their solemn warning not to "build your city upon pride alone". As a consequence, it does not make much difference which dramatist Dionysus resurrects. He could have dug up Noël Coward for all it appears to matter.

That is a pity, for The Frogs is not only the first piece of dramatic criticism in existence, but the first piece of writing to suggest that drama can influence the way people think and live. What better thought to take to Lancaster, Sevenoaks et al? Sadly, they may miss it in all the fun.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

Web of whingers

WHEN I last set off to see a Nigel Charnock production at this venue an electrical fault wiped the lighting from the block and the performance was cancelled. This time round, glumly listening to a character smart abuse at his former girlfriend, I would have welcomed another intervention from the Phantom Fusebox.

Whenever Charnock, co-founder of the performance group DV8 but now beating out his own route, brings choreography into his production the show sizzles with excitement: when he gives his characters their heavy, uninterrupted speeches the sizzle dies and I long for silence.

The only statement that future generations will associate with President Bush is the glib election promise that became a lie. Emotional lies are Charnock's subject here: he shows us a straight man, a gay man, a gay woman and a straight woman, entangling each other in the web of their demands.

The connections are not as rigorously schematic as in La Ronde. Gay Adrian (Adrian Howells) longs for satisfaction but finds none; gay Victoria (Victoria Harwood) — all four characters are given the names of their performers) finds a lot because she is happy to be bisexual. If the show bears any positive message it must be that bisexuals are best, since Christian (Flint) enjoys Adrian and looks like enjoying Victoria, while the

Watch my Lips Drill Hall

rejected Di (Sherlock) is left with only fags — cigarettes and Adrian — for company. The set, by Simon Reeves, hints at a boxing ring, with the front row of the audience as the fourth rope and the others represented by drinks table, clothes rail and an oversize sofa.

At the start of the evening the four performers come forward and make stuttering attempts to suggest their feelings to us, ending when some invisible fiddler — I suppose it is "the rub of love" — renders them helpless. Another line in the same Dylan Thomas poem asks "Shall it be male or female?" which is the question the bisexual characters ask, although the arguments over the answers soon become repetitiously unresolved.

Howells masters a remarkable lip-synching number, and any scene with music works well enough because the male performers are better doing the synchronised dancing, falling, rolling and shivering than they are with their dreadful tirades. Harwood and Sherlock are the better all-round performers but the characters Charnock gives them are indefinite. A hundred minutes in their whingeing company passed slowly.

JEREMY KINGSTON

THE LONDON ORIGINAL PRINT FAIR



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LONDON CONCERTS

Philharmonia/Pletnev/Festival Hall BBC SO/Kitaenko/Festival Hall

THE orchestral list of the Philharmonia may not reveal many Slavic names, but Mikhail Pletnev knows just how to bring out the characteristically dark hues of Russian scores such as those by Prokofiev and Tchaikovsky heard last Wednesday night. In Alexander Nersisyan's cantata, Irina Prokofiev made from his score for Eisenstein's film, the glacial sonorities that open the famous *Battle on the Ice* turned to vocal and instrumental battleships that chilled the blood.

The mezzo soprano Irina Tchistjakova was an aptly warimperial stage presence in *The Field of the Dead*, her plangent tones admirably underpinned by a sombre orchestral fabric. The savagery, horror and triumph of war are portrayed graphically throughout the cantata. Miraculously, all three are brought together in the final movement, *Alexander's Entry into Pskov*, which Pletnev and his forces (the Philharmonia and its Chorus both on crackling form) delivered in suitably strident tones of jubilation.

There was savagery too in Prokofiev's *Romeo and Juliet* ballet — or rather an ominous undercurrent of violence that erupted in the climactic *Death of Tybalt*. The four movements chosen brought some stunning playing from the Philharmonia, which also impressed with the precision of its ensemble in the Scherzo of Tchaikovsky's Suite No 3 in G. The middle section of that movement, with its cymbals and side-drum rolls, acquired, in Pletnev's hands, an eerie spectral quality. The essentially elegiac character of the first two movements was tellingly projected, the second rising to heights of passionate lyricism.

A generous and imaginatively designed programme two nights later for the BBC Symphony Orchestra under Dmitry Kitaenko brought together Schnittke's Symphony No 2 (*St Florian*), Bruckner's Te Deum and Scriabin's *Poem of Ecstasy*. The subtitle of the Schnittke symphony refers to the monastery near Linz where Bruckner is buried, Schnittke having conceived the work as a tribute to him. The six movements of the symphony correspond to sections of the Catholic Mass, and there is a fair measure of plainsong intonation (stylishly delivered by the vocal ensemble Polyphony). The grotesque ironies characteristic of Schnittke's music are largely absent, although there is a spectacular double forearm smash for the organist in one movement, and a decidedly secular plucked double bass at the start of another. For the most part, however,

the mood is sombre, a quality well caught in Kitaenko's account.

Their massive sonorities and a good deal of C major apart, the Te Deum and the *Poem of Ecstasy* make an interesting juxtaposition more for their differences than their similarities. Where the Bruckner is grandiose and confident in its declaration of faith, the Scriabin is decadent and voluptuous ("molto languido" is one of its exotic markings). Kitaenko had the measure of both works in authoritative, skilfully structured and thrilling performances.

The Te Deum — with Christine Brewer, Hilary Summers, Keith Lewis and Robert Lloyd the fine soloists and the London Symphony Chorus in commanding form — was spacious and numinous. In its very different way, the Scriabin also sounded impressively organic. Although punctuating the progress of the wordless poem with clearly defined hiatuses, Kitaenko contrived to maintain a surging, unstoppable tidal flow.

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Power in the pose: Jeff Wall's photographic tableaux go on show at the Whitechapel



Heavyweight thoughts from a Georgian master: Sir John Soane revealed in Dulwich

THE TIMES ARTS



Work by Boris Pastoukhoff and other rarely seen Russians is shown at the Roy Miles Gallery

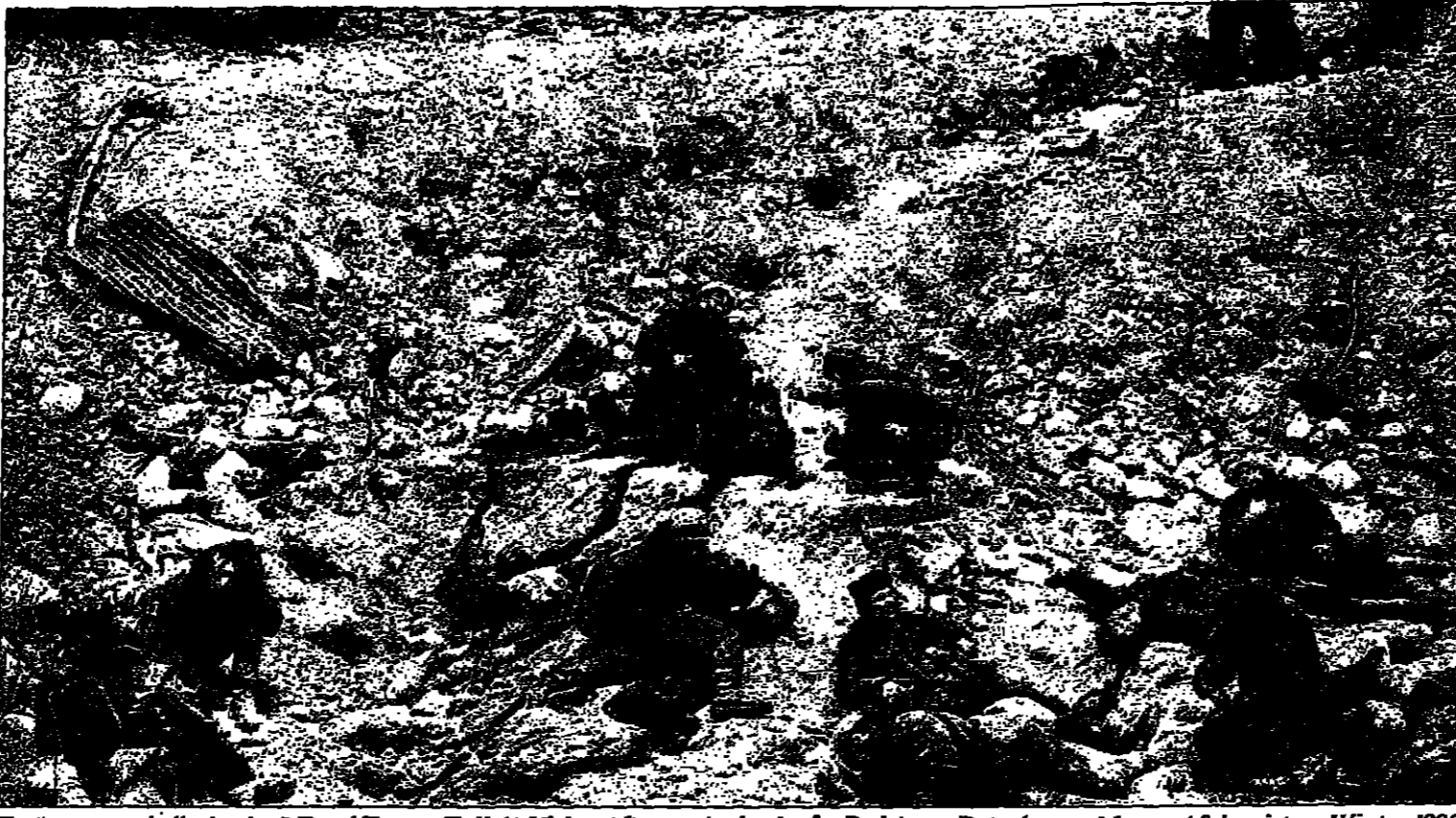


... while at the Piccadilly Gallery the caricatures of Max Beerbohm come up fresh

Richard Cork is drawn into the brilliant picture stories of Jeff Wall; plus other London exhibitions

Tricking the light fantastic

Stepping into Jeff Wall's show is like finding yourself confronted by a glowing cinema screen. The image straight ahead resembles an epic scene from a no-holds-barred war film...



The "grotesque hallucination" Dead Troops Talk (A Vision After an Ambush of a Red Army Patrol, near Mogor, Afghanistan, Winter 1986)

Wall makes no attempt to disguise the invented nature of the scene. It is, self-evidently, a posed work relying on actors to project heightened emotions. Even so, the overt theatricality does not impair the work's baleful power...

native Vancouver before reading art history at the Courtauld Institute in London. Now a professor of fine arts back in Vancouver, he is keenly conscious of the historical precedents for everything he produces...

His ambitions are scarcely less panoramic than Manet's

Wall's ambitions are scarcely less panoramic than Manet's. If Dead Troops Talk shows his most theatrical side, the landscapes on display here are often pure photography, unalloyed by stagecraft of any kind...

The understatement of the work compares favourably with A Fight on the Sidewalk. Here Wall presents the struggle between two weirdly interlocked figures, obscured by Caravaggio-like shadows, without his customary command of mystery...

It lacks the depth of engagement which gives Wall's best work its multi-layered resonance. A Venetian at a Birthday Party in October 1947 is just such an image. For once, the brilliance of the backlit transparency is dimmed...

AROUND THE GALLERIES

ROY MILES'S latest trawl through Russian collections, artists' studios and newly privatised museums has come up with some striking demonstrations that whatever else one might say about Stalinist artists, at least they learnt their craft and could produce enchanting landscapes and scenes of everyday life...

Advertisement for the MS Society. Text: 'HOW £3 A MONTH COULD CHANGE SOMEONE'S LIFE'. Includes a photo of a man and contact information: 0171 610 7171.

One eye on the past, one on eternity

Of all the architects who had a hand in designing Georgian London Sir John Soane was perhaps the most visionary and the most eccentric. Where he got his ideas from, how he meshed them into his own particular brand of architecture...

Isabel Carlisle on a new show of the 'furniture of death' that obsessed the architect Sir John Soane

admired by Soane for its simplicity. Simplicity, combined with such eclectic borrowing from antique models, was the essence of Soane's style. The tomb that he designed for Elizabeth Johnston in 1784 in St Mary Abbott's churchyard in Kensington was based on the oval sarcophagus of Cecilia Metella...

Advertisement for a Special Announcement: 'A Week at Springtime in Costa Rica from £395'. Includes details about 7 nights on the Pacific Coast at Tamarindo, departure dates, and contact information for Voyages Jules Verne.

OPERA

What you won't be seeing: Turin gets the staging of Il corsaro originally destined for Covent Garden



CHOICE 1

Haitink conducts the LPO in a celebratory evening Dvořák Tonight at the Festival Hall



THE TIMES ARTS

CHOICE 2

Kate O'Mara stars in Daphne du Maurier's My Cousin Rachel VENUE: Haymarket, this week



CHOICE 3

Calamity Jane, with Gemma Craven, rides into Eastbourne VENUE: This week at the Congress Theatre



Full of Byronic verve and vigour, Il corsaro deserves more sympathetic musical and theatrical direction than Teatro Regio managed to provide

Verdi shrouded in Turin

The Royal Opera's seven-year Verdi project shines brightly in an increasingly naughty operatic world... Sadly, last year's season was mounted under the Official Secrets Act...

on the South Bank, Britain really is becoming the poor man of operatic Europe... It would be pleasing to report that the Turin Corsaro was a triumph beyond verbal description...

OPERA Teatro Regio, Turin

Mauro Avogadro's production, in Greek War of Independence costumes, rightly stressed the Byronic content... Roberto Frontali was an appropriately stand-and-sing Verdi baritone as the Pasha...

WE HAVE seen some truly remarkable performances at Covent Garden in recent weeks: Darcy Bussell's Aurora; Viviana Durante's Giselle; Irek Mukhammedov's Albrecht...

On wings of desire

matter - rape and the loss of innocence - is ground well covered in the intervening years... As the Girl, Wildor sailed into her destiny on Friday night...

DANCE The Invitation Covent Garden

The Husband, was almost indecent - gloriously so - in its brazen display of intimacy... Wildor's Girl and Cooper's Husband were both consumed by their own private agendas...

LONDON ENGLISH NATIONAL BALLET A three-week season opens with all the family fun and magic of Derek Deane's Alice in Wonderland...

TODAY'S CHOICE A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Kris Anderson

ELSEWHERE BASINGSTOKE Last week of performances for Kate O'Mara, heading the cast in Daphne du Maurier's period costume drama, My Cousin Rachel...

PERCUSSIVE FEET An entirely different style of dance is also on offer... DIVORCE CELEBRATION Bernard Haitink and the London Philharmonic...

THEATRE GUIDE Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

NEW RELEASES GUY BISHOP'S (15) John Travolta's landmark takes on the movie business... NICKY (15) Exhilarating, over-the-top portrait with Anthony Hopkins...

CINEMA GUIDE Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol) on release across the country

ENTERTAINMENTS OPERA & BALLET COLLEEN 0171 625 8300 ENGLISH NATIONAL BALLET ALICE IN WONDERLAND

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MISS SAIGON 'THE CLASSIC LOVE STORY OF OUR TIMES' NOW IN ITS 7TH SENSATIONAL YEAR

THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA RETURNS TO THE WEST END 'A MAJOR THEATRICAL EVENT' Daily Mat

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298,000 READERS OF THIS SECTION ATTEND THE THEATRE AT LEAST 2/3 TIMES A YEAR

Big handicap specialist completes Lincoln favourite's preparation

Akehurst puts edge on Sharp Prospect

By Dick Hinder

THE picture for Saturday's William Hill Lincoln Handicap at Doncaster became clearer yesterday when the five-day entry stage clarified running plans.

The ante-post favourite, Sharp Prospect, will be flexing his muscles on the Epsom gallops today. Reg Akehurst, his trainer, has a fine record in the big handicaps, and believes he has the horse in prime condition.

The Peter Harris-trained Delta Soleil, who will be ridden by Gary Hind, attracted strong support with Ladbrokes yesterday - 9/1 from 16/1 - after pleasing in his recent homework.

Dermot Weld will decide today whether Stilian Bliss, a 25-1 shot with the sponsors, will take his chance.

Jack Berry, renowned for having the stamina of his Cockerham stable ready to run at the Lincoln meeting, has entered Fredrik The Fiery in the Constant Security Brocklesby Conditions Stakes for two-year-olds.

The trainer is hopeful his string will provide him with his usual stream of winners during the campaign's formative weeks.

"We've had an indifferent winter but we've got them as fit as we can. But training here, I don't see a horse from another yard, so you are always guessing," he said.

"It's not like with the Newmarket boys, I remember when Mind Games won the Brocklesby, I thought he looked good, but then when I saw the horses from Bill



JULIAN HERRICK

Mind Games attempts to land a repeat victory for Berry in the Temple Stakes at Sandown next month

O'Gorman's and the other Newmarket yards, they looked like they had come out of a greenhouse, and ours looked like they had come out of the fridge."

Berry runs his 1,000 Guineas hope, My Melody Parkes, in the Nell Gwyn Stakes at

Newmarket on April 16, and her trainer is confident she has improved over the winter.

Berry, yet to win a group one race in Britain, is also hopeful his crack sprinter Mind Games will enjoy better fortune this year than in 1995. The Puissance colt, who

supplied the trainer with his first Royal Ascot winner when claiming the Norfolk Stakes at Juneville, made a promising start to his season last spring, only to disappoint when odds-on for the King's Stand Stakes at Royal Ascot and the Nunthorpe Stakes at York.

RACING AHEAD

Robert Wright suggests the best value in the ante-post market

GUIDE TO THE LEADING PRICES

Table with columns for race name, odds, and other details. Includes entries like Sharp Prospect, Beauchamp Jazz, Delta Soleil, etc.

After the trials of the Cheltenham Festival, where just one favourite obliged in 20 races, there is no reason to be afraid of the ante-post market, which is now faced with the first major betting race of the flat season, the Lincoln Handicap at Doncaster.

RICHARD EVANS Naps: MR COPYFORCE (3.30 Fontwell Park) Next best: Bitacracak (3.20 Uttoxeter)

spring horse as he did win the consolation race very easily last season. The Epsom trainer said, Akehurst's contender will work under big-race jockey, Richard Quinn, over six furlongs on the Epsom gallops.

Backers anticipating the withdrawal of top weights, Decorated Hero, Cadeaux Tryst and Tarawa, were not disappointed with all three coming out, which leaves the Ian Balding-trained Hoh Express and John Dunlop's Beauchamp Jazz jointly heading the weights on 9st 10lb.

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 4.20 ANDROS PRINCE (nap).

GOING: GOOD TOTE JACKPOT MEETING SIS

2.20 WORTHINGTON DRAUGHT BITTER NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE (2m 4 1/2f) (14 runners)

Race card table for WORTHINGTON DRAUGHT BITTER NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE with runner names and odds.

1995: NO CORRESPONDING MEETING

FORM FOCUS

WILD WEST WIND beat the Captain's Whip 5/1 in 17-runner novice hurdle at Worcester (2m 4 1/2f) on 11th March.

2.50 CARLING BLACK LABEL NOVICES SELLING HURDLE (2:07.8) (2m) (16 runners)

Race card table for CARLING BLACK LABEL NOVICES SELLING HURDLE with runner names and odds.

Hurdling: 3-1 Valiant Toss, 7-2 Coast Road, 4-1 Celtic Cedars, 8-1 Broomfield Piper, 10-1 King Prosper, 12-1 Broomfield Piper, 14-1 King Prosper, 16-1 Broomfield Piper.

FORM FOCUS

VALIANT TOSS beat Lutz in 11-runner novice hurdle at Lingfield (2m 11f) on 11th March.

3.20 CARLING PREMIER NOVICES HURDLE CHASE (2:57.9) (2m 5f) (16 runners)

Race card table for CARLING PREMIER NOVICES HURDLE CHASE with runner names and odds.

Hurdling: 7-2 Eastern River, 4-1 Tough Dax, 9-2 Juddell Field, 5-1 Blackrock, 7-1 Trichrome, 8-1 Eastern River, 14-1 Dax, 16-1 others.

FORM FOCUS

JUDDEL FIELD beat head and 15/20 of 5 in 16-runner novice hurdle at Doncaster (2m 5f) on 11th March.

Blinkered first time

AVR: 10 Miss Lamphugh, FONTWELL PARK: 3.30 Chryman, UTOXETER: 2.50 General Amco, 4.50 Amphig, 5.20 Master Palfrey

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GUIDE TO OUR IN-LINE RACING

Recent number, 50-figure form - F - fast, P - pulled up, U - unsound, star - brought down, S - slow, W - withdrawn, D - disqualified, Horse's name - time taken, last racing, F in italics - first race, W in italics - last race, C in italics - course and distance, D in italics - distance.

3.50 HOOPER'S HOCH HANDICAP HURDLE (2:49.7) (2m 11f) (8 runners)

Race card table for HOOPER'S HOCH HANDICAP HURDLE with runner names and odds.

FORM FOCUS

BRIDES OF MAR 29th of 9 in 9-runner novice hurdle at Sandown (2m 11f) on 11th March.

4.20 GAFFREY'S IRISH ALE HANDICAP CHASE (2:28.8) (3m 2f) (13 runners)

Race card table for GAFFREY'S IRISH ALE HANDICAP CHASE with runner names and odds.

FORM FOCUS

PRICES HILL beat Rame 11/10 in 17-runner handicap chase at Worcester (3m 2f) on 11th March.

4.50 DRAUGHT BASS CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS NOVICES HURDLE (2:27.8) (2m) (15 runners)

Race card table for DRAUGHT BASS CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS NOVICES HURDLE with runner names and odds.

FORM FOCUS

DOONE BRIDE beat 3rd of 15 in 16-runner novice hurdle at Worcester (2m) on 11th March.

5.20 WORTHINGTON DRAUGHT BITTER NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE (2m 4 1/2f) (14 runners)

Race card table for WORTHINGTON DRAUGHT BITTER NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE with runner names and odds.

FORM FOCUS

NOVA RUN beat 9th of 12 in 12-runner novice hurdle at Worcester (2m 4 1/2f) on 11th March.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

Table showing course specialists with columns for name, wins, runs, and odds.

NEWCASTLE

2.20 (2m 11f) 1, Ralloffo (G.Catlin, 3-1); 2, M.H. Thyme (S.Fay, 2); 3, Travestrum (B.1) 12 ran, 10, 6f, G. Richards, 10/1. Total: £400, £150, £170, £170, £220. Tric: £110, CSF: £548.

2.10 EUROPEAN BREEDERS FUND ARRAN NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE (2:57.5) (2m 4 1/2f) (15 runners)

Race card table for EUROPEAN BREEDERS FUND ARRAN NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE with runner names and odds.

FORM FOCUS

2.40 (2m 11f) 1, Nettle (A. Dobbin, 5-1); 2, Bann (G.1); 3, Twin Stars (S.1); 4, Simon Towers (11-10) 9f, 8 ran, NR; 5, P. W. McKeown (2-1) 10f, 8 ran, NR; 6, M. Reynolds (1-1) 10f, 8 ran, NR; 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100.

2.40 COLDSAY NOVICES HURDLE (2:25.5) (2m 11f) (9)

Race card table for COLDSAY NOVICES HURDLE with runner names and odds.

FORM FOCUS

2.40 (2m 11f) 1, Tarrack (D. Byrne, 3-1); 2, Ballywhisker (3-1); 3, S. J. O'Connell (5-1); 4, M. J. O'Connell (5-1); 5, M. J. O'Connell (5-1); 6, M. J. O'Connell (5-1); 7, M. J. O'Connell (5-1); 8, M. J. O'Connell (5-1); 9, M. J. O'Connell (5-1); 10, M. J. O'Connell (5-1); 11, M. J. O'Connell (5-1); 12, M. J. O'Connell (5-1); 13, M. J. O'Connell (5-1); 14, M. J. O'Connell (5-1); 15, M. J. O'Connell (5-1); 16, M. J. O'Connell (5-1); 17, M. J. O'Connell (5-1); 18, M. J. O'Connell (5-1); 19, M. J. O'Connell (5-1); 20, M. J. O'Connell (5-1); 21, M. J. O'Connell (5-1); 22, M. J. O'Connell (5-1); 23, M. J. O'Connell (5-1); 24, M. J. O'Connell (5-1); 25, M. J. O'Connell (5-1); 26, M. J. O'Connell (5-1); 27, M. J. O'Connell (5-1); 28, M. J. O'Connell (5-1); 29, M. J. O'Connell (5-1); 30, M. J. O'Connell (5-1); 31, M. J. O'Connell (5-1); 32, M. J. O'Connell (5-1); 33, M. J. O'Connell (5-1); 34, M. J. O'Connell (5-1); 35, M. J. O'Connell (5-1); 36, M. J. O'Connell (5-1); 37, M. J. 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Five nations' formula stands up to scrutiny

Flawed it may be, but the five nations' championship remains a tournament unique in rugby union. It is the life blood of sport, then the championship has a pulsating heart with which the authorities tamper at their peril.

to be accepted, would reduce the rarity value of international rugby and anger professional clubs who resent the removal of their players.



David Hands, rugby correspondent, on how England's victory contained an ominous warning for their rivals

Scotland and Ireland can only envy. That envy will grow if the wealth of a handful of English clubs continues to draw the best talent from the other home unions, leaving their domestic game shorn of notables.

Thus, this season, there has been a litter of new faces and new coaches, each familiarising himself with international rugby — no wonder that standards have been erratic. We should be grateful that Wales and Scotland chose the paths they did and played the most entertaining rugby.

playing level, the more difficult it becomes to achieve both objectives, but the readiness of such individuals to diprose himself, Tim Simpson, Darren Garforth and David Sims for international rugby has been greatly enhanced.

What of such a player as Alex King? The Bristol University student played all five A internationals which, the odd Barbarian and, divisional appearance aside, represents the sum of his first-class experience. He is the hottest of properties in rugby's burgeoning job market, a stand-off half with good hands, a good pass, a good left foot and, apparently, lacking only a slight edge in pace.

Clubs begin drive to win control of European Cup

By David Hands and Mark Souster

EUROPE'S leading rugby union clubs will this week present their respective governing bodies with their own plans for an enhanced European Cup. Should they not get their way, there is every prospect that they will seek to run their own competition.

competition would be played on the same dates involving eight clubs each from England, Wales and France, five each from Scotland and Ireland, and two from Italy.

coverage from TTV, seeks to expand anyway; but the vital ingredient for the clubs is access to television money and the commercial exposure that it brings. For several weeks, talks have been continuing through third parties with BSkyB, the satellite broadcaster, which has expressed interest in backing such a venture.



Phillips demonstrates the determined running that brought him two tries for Gordonstoun at Roehampton yesterday

Wigan trio prepare for Twickenham return

A YEAR ago, Martin Offiah, Scott Quinnell and Va'ata Tu'ifamala would not have dreamt of playing rugby union at Twickenham again (David Hands writes). Yesterday, they stroled out to eye the cavernous new stands at Wigan, their rugby league club, and Bath unveiled plans for their two challenge matches in May.

Wigan anticipate a crowd of 30,000 at Maine Road while Sale and Prosper, one of the Rugby Football Union's elite sponsors, are backing the game at Twickenham.

Unless the five nations committee agrees to cede control of the existing tournament to the clubs — and that is unlikely — then the threat of a walkaway is very real. BSkyB knows that, if it did proceed, there is a chance of winning the rights to televise the five nations' championship would be seriously jeopardised. The company is, however, banking on the fact that the sums that it could offer for the new contract, which comes into effect at the beginning of the 1997-98 season, would be too tempting for the English, Welsh and Scottish unions to resist.

Phillips leads Gordonstoun advance

PETER PHILLIPS, the son of the Princess Royal, yesterday helped Gordonstoun into the last 32 of the Rosslyn Park national schools rugby tournament.

who watched Gordonstoun's game against King Edward's, Bath, and plays the same position as Phillips at flanker, said: "He showed great promise and is naturally aggressive, an important part of back-row play."

Park Wellington College, the game holders, moved through conceding just 19 points and Blundell's, whom they beat in the final 12 months ago, meet West Backland today.

Table with 2 columns: Team names and scores for Rosslyn Park School Sevens. Includes teams like Wigan, Bath, and various school names.

Table with 2 columns: Team names and scores for BASKETBALL. Includes teams like Orlando, Toronto, and various international leagues.

Table with 2 columns: Team names and scores for HOCKEY. Includes teams like Canada, USA, and various international leagues.

Table with 2 columns: Team names and scores for GOLF. Includes names like O'Rourke, Lyle, and various international tournaments.

Table with 2 columns: Team names and scores for TENNIS. Includes names like Brundage, Hoad, and various international tournaments.

IN BRIEF

Basketball league to go open

THE Budweiser Basketball League is to go open after member clubs voted to scrap the two-foreigner rule. The decision, which will come into force next year, reflects the anticipated effect of the Bosman ruling on the European club game.

Hopley leads

Rugby union: Damian Hopley, of Wasps, will captain England in the Hong Kong Sevens, which start on March 29. Hopley was part of the England team that won the World Cup Sevens in 1993 and links up again with Andrew Harriman, who led the side three years ago and is now manager.

Overhaul call

Badminton: Ciro Ciniglio, the England manager, yesterday added his voice to the growing call for the Olympic Games qualifying system to be overhauled. Many players have been withdrawing from tournaments at short notice as the March 31 qualifying deadline nears so as not to put their ranking at risk.

Stadium plan

Rugby union: Gloucester have unveiled plans for a £15 million stadium at their Kingsholm ground. It will seat 18,000, increasing the capacity by 6,000. The scheme could take ten years to complete.

Bell favourite

Skiing: Graham Bell, Great Britain's leading downhill skier, underlined his status as favourite for the British championship at Tignes today. Bell was fastest on the first run, holding off Dan Walker, the British No 2, by 0.34sec.

Vertical sidebar containing various sports news snippets, including mentions of '6:00pm', '7:00pm', '8:00pm', and other time slots with corresponding news items.

HemiaRepair advertisement: Performed as day case under local anaesthesia by specialist surgeons. Includes phone number 0171-328 1228.

Call 0891 500 123 advertisement: Results, Call 0891 100 123. Includes phone number 0891 555 562.

Disturbing ideas on the good news beat

Mary Lewis's tireless pursuit of good news appears to be leading him in some curious directions. After last night's instalment of *Crime Beat* (BBC), the series which aims to show that life isn't quite as frightening as *Crime-watch* says it is, his nearest and dearest will view an invitation to stay chez Lewis with dismay.

Lewis, you see, has seen the future of domestic crime prevention and he likes it. He likes it a lot. It is called a domestic surveillance system, which is basically just like all those closed-circuit television systems we see in shopping centres, but in our home.

This was clearly good news for those who make a living from assembling compilations of such clips ("Quick, we've been burgled, call Jeremy Beadle") but did it really represent progress for the rest of us? Lewis was convinced it did.

A pillar of respectability in double-breasted grey flannel, Lewis is beside himself: "The beauty of your own home surveillance system," he began, in the super-serious tones that he reserves for moments of extreme good news, "is that it allows you to check on what is happening in and around your own home without leaving your armchair."

The "around" I didn't have a problem with (we had already been introduced to the "first burglar in Britain to be convicted by video") but surely there was something just a tad unhealthy about the "in"? Not for Lewis. Those famous cherubic features by now positively aglow, he bounded up the stairs to show us the full potential of a system. One ingenious couple, he told us, had even hidden a camera in a smoke alarm so they could keep an eye on their sleeping newborn.

Two things. Why had they

hidden the camera if it was only monitoring a baby and where had they hidden the one in the spare room currently occupied by Uncle Fred and that nice, new Auntie Helga?

No problem with hidden cameras in *This Life* (BBC2), just a film unit and a director shouting: "You're in a shower darlings, so naturally you don't have any clothes on — so stop hiding behind that curtain worrying about whether the script justifies it and let us see." Which is how presumably, Milly (Amita Dhiri) and Egg (Andrew Lincoln) were persuaded to step forth, clad only in their artistic integrity.

The idea for a drama based on the communal life of five young lawyers was apparently Michael Jackson's, the Controller of BBC2. Early on, you get the impression that some brave soul must have said: "Isn't that a little like



Matthew Bond
Friends and got horribly slapped down. The order went out: no account was *This Life* to be anything like *Friends*, the American-made Channel 4 sitcom.

came as a bit of a surprise. The sex, however — so far much talked about but only modestly practised — did not.

By the end of this reasonably promising first episode, four of our five friends were sharing the house which, rather like the Edinburgh flat in *Shallow Grave*, may yet turn out to be the star. A rundown, high-ceilinged, stucco pile, it immediately makes you wonder why they are bothering with the legal profession at all, rather than going straight into property development.

The four in residence are Milly and Egg, who are an item, and Miles (Jack Davenport) and Anna (Daniela Nardini), who, despite a much-referred-to one night stand, are not. The fifth, Warren, is gay. From South Wales and in therapy. It can only, therefore, be a matter of time before he moves in.

While *Friends* has studio sets and audience laughter, *This Life*

has locations, attitude and an unnerving habit of jumping through time. One minute the characters are discussing a problem, the next it is done, sorted, resolved — without us really understanding how and why. But perhaps hows and whys don't matter in your twenties.

It is more than five years since the Cornish fishing boat, *Pescado*, sank off Bodman Point with the loss of six lives. But it is less than a week since Joseph O'Connor, a trawler operator, was convicted of manslaughter and sentenced to three years in prison. Simon Campbell-Jones's film for *Cutting Edge* (Channel 4) retold the extraordinary story of what happened in-between.

The film had some immensely emotive footage — of the *Pescado* lying on the seabed, of her finally being winched to the surface and of the rusty, barnacle-encrusted wreck being towed into Plymouth Sound, some two and half years after she had set out for sea scallop dredging. But the most poignant of all was a video recording of the accident investigators successfully inflating the boat's liferaft, despite the fact that it was four years past its inspection and had spent 30 months underwater. If it had been mounted properly, rather than lashed to the boat as the film alleged, lives might have been saved.

But the film also had a flaw. It was too close to Alan Ayres, the businessman who invested in the boat and, after her sinking, became convinced (and spent a lot of time convincing the media) that the boat had been sunk by a submarine. To this day nobody knows — as the film eventually made clear — what sank the *Pescado*. We had spent too long chasing one man's so-far unprovable conspiracies.

REVIEW

CHOICE

Island

The publicity for this teenage drama misleadingly suggests a British version of *Baywatch*. Jersey, where it is based, may offer sun, sea, sand and excitement for the seven young people at the heart of the story, but do not expect rippling muscles and sun-kissed skin. The script, by Adele Rose, creator of *Byker Grove* and long of *Coronation Street*, and her daughter, Carrie, are more serious than that. The seven have arrived from the mainland, not all in the happiest of circumstances. Cathy is escaping a violent home life, while Sandra has run away two weeks before her wedding. Louise is an aspiring dancer, who flouts both her body and her ambition, and Danny is an upstart banker. The most sympathetic character, whether by accident or design, is gay. *Island* has the makings of a quality series.

Without Walls

Janet Street-Porter launches tonight's double bill with a tirade against the Internet and the "nerds" who use it. In her view the net serves up second-rate information and mindless waste to the socially challenged. Nor does she think it smart to get repetitive strain injury ordering a pizza. In her support she calls Times columnist John Diamond and Ian Hislop of *Private Eye*. But there are powerful voices on the other side. Also in *Without Walls*, Joe Quennan, an American film critic, comes to Britain and sets out to galvanise the British society by pretending to be Hugh Grant. But his preparation is hardly in the Rory Bremner class and in any case, apart from mocking Hugh, the point of the exercise is obscure. The running joke is that everybody Quennan/Grant meets thinks Tim Roth is a better actor.

And the Beat Goes On...

From the *Brookside* stable comes an eight-part story of Liverpool which begins just before the Beatles arrived. Joe Alsworth's script covers a broad canvas and the large number of characters means that the opening episode is largely a scene-setter. But there are hints of themes to come. One is the class divide, as exemplified by the families at the heart of the narrative. The Spencers and O'Rourkes are destined to become entwined through their offspring. But for the moment the Spencers are comfortably middle-class, and boast a would-be Tory MP, while the O'Rourkes are staunchly proletarian. Alsworth also explores the sexual tensions of the era, reminding us that in 1960 abortions and homosexual acts were still illegal and had to be pursued furtively. Stephen Moore, Jenny Agutter and Norman Rossington head the cast.

Savage Skies

Weather is the subject of this four-part series. It's spectacular, destructive weather that desolates the landscape and takes lives. The commentary warns to the task by talking about thunderheads with the power of a nuclear bomb, hailstones that can kill livestock and hurricanes which can engulf the United States for six months. If only they could be harnessed, that is. Rain is the topic for tonight. We hear from survivors of the flash flood which devastated the Devon village of Lynmouth in 1952. From Colorado a middle-aged man still mourns the loss of his wife and young daughter, swept away in a huge wave after 12 inches of rain fell in one evening. Bombay, by contrast, is praying for the arrival of the monsoon that will bring relief from the sweltering heat. Peter Waymark

REVIEW

CHOICE

6.00am GMTV (9500628)

9.25 *Win, Lose or Draw* (s) (2282258)
9.55 *Regional News* (Teletext) (4483884)
10.00 *The Time ... the Place* (s) (8675797)
10.35 *This Morning* (9827971)
12.20pm *Regional News* (Teletext) (2074971)
12.30 *News and weather* (Teletext) (7531838)
12.55 *Shortland Street* (s) (7916529)
1.25 *High Road* (Teletext) (6324780)
2.00 *Home and Away*. Kelly might be HIV positive (Teletext) (s) (3070513)
2.25 *Chain Letters* (Teletext) (s) (3082548)
2.50 *Vanessa* (Teletext) (s) (4488345)
3.20 *News headlines* (Teletext) (3392023)
3.25 *Regional News* (Teletext) (4740744)
3.30 *The Magic House* (s) (5854548) 3.40 *Tots TV* (s) (252703) 3.50 *Sooty and Co* (s) (6984971) 4.15 *Animals* (s) (Teletext) (s) (9132118)

4.00 Island

Series about seven young people on the island of Jersey (Teletext) (1887567)
5.10 *Animal Country* (9750819)
5.40 *News* (Teletext) and weather (891074)
6.00 *Home and Away* (s) (Teletext) (s) (46528)

6.25 Regional News

(Teletext) (339109)
7.00 *Emmerdale*. Zoe and Emma's peace is shattered by an old flame. Terry and Viv spend the night together (Teletext) (s) (2242)
7.30 *West Eye View* (Teletext) (567)
8.00 *The Bill: Getting Off*. Boulton has a difference of opinion with drugs worker Linda Evans (Teletext) (s) (4890)
8.30 *Married for Life*. Sixteen years and What Do You Say? Sam and Ted celebrate their 16th wedding anniversary (Teletext) (s) (7797)

9.00 Peak Practice: Looking Back

Will's professional relationship with Erica suffers a setback when she is thrown off balance by some unexpected arrivals in Cardale. Starring Edward Atterton and Saskia Wickham (Teletext) (s) (3006)
10.00 *News* (Teletext) and weather (11150)
10.30 *Regional News* (Teletext) (45722)
10.40 *Playhouse Savages*. Fire and Rain (Teletext) (44929)
11.40 *Prisoner Cell Block H* (290454)
12.40pm *Film: Spring and Port Wine* (1989). Drama about the tensions between two generations of a Bolton family. With James Mason and Susan George. Directed by Peter Hammond (445579)
2.30 *Late and Loud* (s) (352159)
3.25 *The Chart Show*. Featuring the rock chart, and Amy Grant sings Baby, Baby in the Video Vault (s) (s) (2432846)
4.25 *Football Extra* (s) (83458)
5.30 *The West at Work* (39952)
5.30 *ITN News* (2493). Ends at 6.00

As HTV West except:

5.10pm-5.40 *The Really Helpful Programme* (9750819)
6.25-7.00 *Wales Tonight* (338106)
7.30-8.00 *Grass Roots* (567)

WESTCOUNTRY

As HTV West except:
12.25-12.30 *My Story* (2155890)
12.55 *Emmerdale* (7916529)
1.25-1.55 *Chain Letters* (11759172)
1.55 *Home and Away* (42200155)
2.25 *Vanessa* (30703600)
2.55-3.20 *A Country Practice* (3335567)
5.10-5.40 *Home and Away* (9750819)
6.00-7.00 *Westcountry Live* (43451)
7.30-8.00 *Wild West Country* (567)

CENTRAL

As HTV West except:
12.55 *Home and Away* (7916529)
1.25 *Chain Letters* (11759172)
1.55 *A Country Practice* (34706548)
2.20 *Vanessa* (30884529)
2.50-3.20 *Late and Loud* (448345)
5.10-5.40 *Shortland Street* (9750819)
6.25-7.00 *Central News and weather* (339109)
7.30-8.00 *Heart of the Country* (567)
11.40 *Film: The Raven*. Horror outing with Vincent Price, Boris Karloff and Peter Lorre (748432)
1.20am *Late and Loud* (4891117)
2.20 *Hotel Babylon* (9202699)
2.55 *Funny Business* (7016812)
3.25 *Football Extra* (7370581)
4.00 *Jobfinder* (4376643)
5.20 *Asian Eye* (8908285)

REVIEW

CHOICE

6.35am Chicken Minute

(r) (8306316)
7.00 *The Big Breakfast*
9.00 *Fifteen to One* (r) (Teletext) (s) (25567)
9.30 *Schools: The Mix* (9041426) 9.45 *Stop. Look Listen* (9142109) 10.00 *Fourways Farm* (7856428) 10.10 *Maths Everywhere* (7801187) 10.25 *How We Used to Live* (3302172) 10.45 *Quest* (3377567) 11.00 *Science in Focus* (6042277) 11.20 *Stage One* (8544529) 11.35 *Film and Video Showcase* (9995857) 11.45 *First Edition* (4431548)

12.00 Home to House

(s) (61613)
12.30pm *Sesame Street* (31819) 1.30 *Ovide* (2436906)
1.55 *The Three Stooges: Nutty But Nice*. Vintage comedy (94713638)
2.15 *Film: Oh, You Beautiful Bird* (1945). Light-hearted musical biopic, starring June Haver and S.Z. "Cuddles" Seale (as songwriter Fred Fisher). Directed by John M. Stahl (108938)

4.00 Jimmy's

Real-life hospital series (628)
4.30 *Countdown* (s) (180) 5.00 *The Montel Williams Show*. Psychic love advice (Teletext) (s) (5895221) 5.50 *Terraviva* (88616)
6.00 *The Avengers*. Steed and Mrs Peel search for a missing dispatch box (r) (Teletext) (41093)
7.00 *Channel 4 News* (Teletext) (457364)
7.55 *The Slot* (77487)
8.00 *Motor Mania: The Freedom of the Open Road*. The series looking at the history of motoring in Britain explores the phenomena of the traffic jam and the sports car Casanova (Teletext) (s) (2432)
8.30 *Brookside*. Max confuses (Teletext) (s) (1567)

9.00 CHOICE Without Walls: J'Accuse

Technocrats (Teletext) (s) (4306) 9.30 *My Fair Hugh* (Teletext) (s) (53858)

MERIDIAN

As HTV West except:
12.55pm *Chain Letters* (7916529)
1.25 *Home and Away* (11759172)
1.55 *Shortland Street* (94706548)
2.20 *Vanessa* (30884529)
2.50-3.20 *A Tale of Four Sea Ports* (4488345)
5.10 *Home and Away* (9750819)
5.37-5.40 *Three Minutes — Making It Happen* (883529)
6.00 *Meridian Tonight* (703)
6.30-7.00 *Michael Barry's Undiscovered Cooks* (155)
7.30-8.00 *Serve You Right Live* (567)
5.00am *FreeScreen* (39952)

SAC

Starts 6.35 *Chicken Minute* (8306316) 7.00 *The Big Breakfast* (4306) 9.00 *Fifteen to One* (25567) 9.30 *Ysgolion* (36258) 12.00 *Home to House* (61613) 12.30pm *Earthworm Jim* (33074) 1.00 *Slot Melthrin* (48093) 1.30 *Keepers of the Kingdom* (32548) 2.30 *Those British Fables* (615) 3.20 *Food for Thought* (3432) 3.30 *Go Fishing* (161) 4.00 *Jimmy's* (828) 4.30 *Saved by the Bell: The New Class* (180) 5.00 *5 Pump: Uned 5* (3548) 5.30 *Countdown* (432) 6.00 *Newyddion* (53783) 6.15 *Heno* (95695) 7.00 *Pobol Y Cwm* (45890) 7.25 *Sgrin Tl* (617819) 7.50 *Home and Away* (9750819) 8.00 *Newsnight* (1537) 9.00 *Hidden Kingdoms* (7838) 10.00 *Brookside* (11172) 10.30 *Cutting Edge: The Mystery of Pescado* (88616) 11.30 *Father Ted* (24871) 12.00 *J'Accuse: Technocrats* (21846) 12.30am *Hugh's Friends* (39038)

REVIEW

CHOICE

10.00 And the Beat Goes On

(Teletext) (s) (538729)
11.05 *Big Mouth* presented by Tony Parsons. The guests include La Cicciolina and Auberon Waugh, with music from Bert Bacharach and Sandie Shaw (Teletext) (884567)
12.10am *Nurses: Don't Hit the Road, Jack*. (Teletext) (858013)
12.45 *Fastlives*. A look at the violent behaviour of the racing gangs of Papua New Guinea (r) (2458440)
1.40 *Next Stop Hollywood*. An obnoxious neighbour returns home to find his parents have left (954310)
2.15 *Film: Mad Genesis* (1931). Melodrama starring John Barrymore as a Singsong puppeteer. Directed by Michael Curtiz (2950778)
3.40 *Writing on the Line*. Saunders Lewis (7565594). Ends at 4.35

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6.00am Business Breakfast

(25797)
7.00 *BBC Breakfast News* (Coastal) (50608)
9.00 *Breakfast News Extra* (Coastal) (6791971)

9.20 Can't Cook, Won't Cook

(s) (2207567)
9.45 *Kilroy* (s) (8014272)

10.30 Good Morning

(s) (35762)
12.00 *News* (Coastal), regional news and weather (2158987)

12.05pm Turnabout

(s) (5571529)
12.30 *Going for a Song* (s) (400364)

1.00 One O'Clock News

(Coastal) and weather (59155)

1.30 Regional News and weather

(16065838)
1.40 *Neighbours* (Coastal) (s) (94792345)
2.00 *Pebble Mill* (s) (8470083)

2.40 Rich Man, Poor Man

The final part of the repeated serial with Peter Strauss and Nick Nolte (1184722)

3.30 Ants in Your Pants

(s) (8083957) 3.50 *Orville and Cuddles* (s) (403523) 4.55 *ChuckleVision* (s) (6070722) 4.15 *Free Willy* (Coastal) (s) (212398) 4.35 *Ron the Rik* (Coastal) (s) (2864616) 5.00 *Newsround* (Coastal) (3540068) 5.10 *Grange Hill* (Coastal) (s) (1223616)

5.35 Neighbours

Mal and Storie experience male bonding while Libby becomes Mark's latest victim. Ren decompers her dreams (r) (Coastal) (s) (175451)

6.00 Six O'Clock News

(Coastal) (635)
6.30 *Regional News* magazines (387)
7.00 *Holiday*. Jill Dando sets off for Elba, praised by Napoleon but largely undiscovered by British visitors. Monty Don rents a farmhouse in Polaris, explores the common misconceptions of Virgin Gorda in the Caribbean and charts a yacht round the neighbouring islands; and Diana Madill travels through Cork, staying at private country houses (Coastal) (s) (7154)
7.30 *EastEnders*. Phil devises a plan to keep Peggy off Pat's back, and Pat shows David who's boss (Coastal) (s) (971)
8.00 *Sportnight*. Nottingham Forest v Bayern Munich. Live coverage of the UEFA Cup quarter final, second leg introduced by Des Lynne with Alan Hansen and Jimmy Hill. Commentary from John Motson and Trevor Brooking (s) NB: In the event of a draw at full time, subsequent programmes may run late (92722513)
9.55 *News* (Coastal), regional news and weather (52933)
10.25 *Think It's All Over*. The comedian Nick Hancock compares a game of wit and sporting knowledge with team captains David Gower and Gary Lineker joined by Rory McGrath and Lee Hurst. Sharon Davies and Bob Mills are this week's guests (Coastal) (s) (413006) NB: 10.25 *Home Truths* (11.05 *They Think It's All Over* 11.35 *Film: All the President's Men* 1.50am *Weather*)
10.55 *Film: All the President's Men* (1976) starring Robert Redford and Dustin Hoffman. Political drama about an investigation by *The Washington Post* which resulted in the Watergate scandal. Directed by Alan J. Pakula. (67447971)
1.10am *Weather* (8514223)

VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCodes
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6.00am Open University

Understanding Space and Time (9639548) 6.25 *Animal Physiology: Time to Be Born* (9545155) 6.50 *Oceanography* (8753613)

7.15 See Hear Breakfast News

(1728703)
7.30 *Stringray* (s) (Coastal) (33161)
8.00 *Blue Peter* (r) (Coastal) (s) (5441548)

8.25 Oakie Dokie

Animation (r) (s) (8972548)
8.40 *The Record* (s) (6059819)

9.05 Daytime on Two

Lamexpress (s) (6788884) 9.25 *See You, See Me* (s) (8881548) 9.45 *Watch* (s) (9045131) 10.00 *Playdays* (s) (4529635) 10.25 *Come Outside* (s) (1807744) 10.45 *The Experiment* (s) (3180398) 11.05 *Space Ark* (s) (5182422) 11.15 *Clementine* (s) (8852548) 11.30 *Teaching Today* (s) (8613) 12.00 *See Hear* (r) (Coastal) (s) (10635) 12.30pm *Working Lunch* (48906) 1.00 *Teaching Today* (s) (57797) 1.30 *Showcase* (s) (2236022) 1.40 *Hotch Potch House* (s) (9479087) 2.00 *Oakie Dokie* (r) (s) (20548093)

2.10 The Andrew Hall Show

(s) (4136667)
3.00

ICE SKATING 42 GALINDO WEAVES A MAGIC SPELL AT WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

SPORT

RUGBY UNION 44 CLUBS BEGIN PUSH FOR CONTROL OF EUROPEAN CUP

TUESDAY MARCH 19 1996

Defeated Briton weighs up options

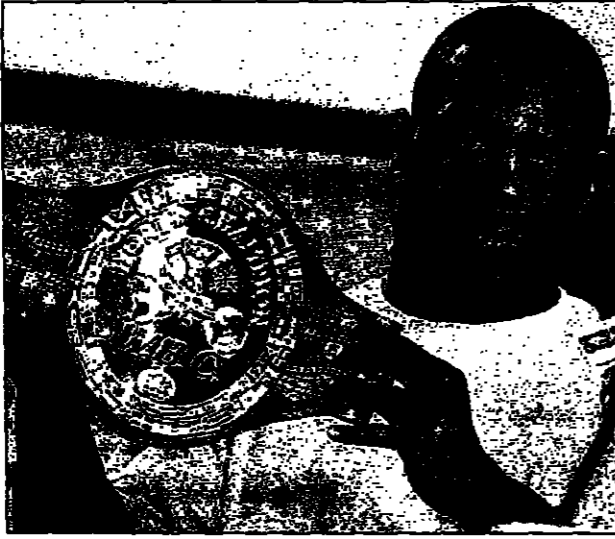
Rematch with Lewis could tempt Bruno

FROM SRIKUMAR SEN, BOXING CORRESPONDENT, IN LAS VEGAS

FRANK BRUNO says that he needs a couple of weeks to consider his options after his defeat in three rounds by Mike Tyson here on Saturday night. There have been many calls for him to retire from boxing. One came from his old friend, Harry Carpenter, who said: "The only right thing for him to do now is call it a day. I hoped I would not have to come out with that, but it has to be said and I cannot believe there is a person left who would advise him otherwise."

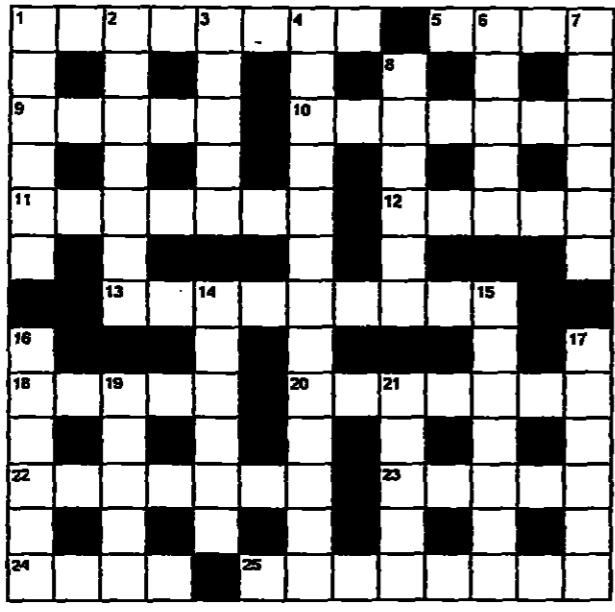
Certainly, if a manager were now to produce another heavyweight with anything like the boxing abilities that are still left in Bruno, he would be a happy man. Even though Bruno is still the second best in Europe, behind Lennox Lewis, his marketability for a world title challenge in the United States is now not too strong after his failure to live up to his boast that he would dump Tyson in Don King's lap. Bruno has never been considered a sufficiently impressive heavyweight on this side of the Atlantic to command respect. His performance here on Saturday would have further reinforced that view. However, Bruno still has appeal in England and there is one contest that could yet bring out the best in him — against Lewis.

At present, such a proposition is an unlikely one, but one that could yet happen with a bit of luck — and Bruno has never been short of luck. He has boxed five times for the world title; a sixth challenge may not be out of the question. Lewis meets Tyson in September. That much has been decreed by the World Boxing Council. If Lewis wins, a bout with Bruno could then be very much on the cards. Bruno has always felt that he had the beating of Lewis, even though he was stopped in seven rounds by him in Cardiff in 1993. Bruno was ahead on points at the time and had Lewis in trouble before getting caught with a big punch as Lewis came off the ropes. Bruno, though, might have to wait another year for that bout to take place. If Lewis conquered Tyson, who is being lined up to meet Bruce Seldon, the World Boxing Association champion, here on July 13, he would become the biggest name in boxing. He would unify the titles without too much trouble and then embark on the contest that everyone has been waiting to see, a showdown with Riddick Bowe, his arch-rival, a bout that would be worth at least £50 million. All that would take the best part of 1997, if politics do not get in the way of Lewis challenging Tyson in September. At the moment, with a court order safeguarding Lewis's claim, it is safe to assume that Lewis will get that bout. Bruno would be 35 by then, but still not too old for a heavyweight. Since he had almost a three-year break after his first defeat by Tyson, waiting for another year before meeting Lewis may not worry him too much. It would at least give him time to gather himself for one more attempt. Panos Eliades, Lewis's financial backer, said yesterday: "Yes, we might consider Bruno as an opponent after Lennox has cleaned up the division — that is if Bruno is still around. Even though Bruno ignored our right to fight him before Tyson, we would be glad to consider him as an opponent depending on his marketability near the time."



Tyson shows off the world title belt that he reclaimed from Bruno on Saturday at a press conference yesterday

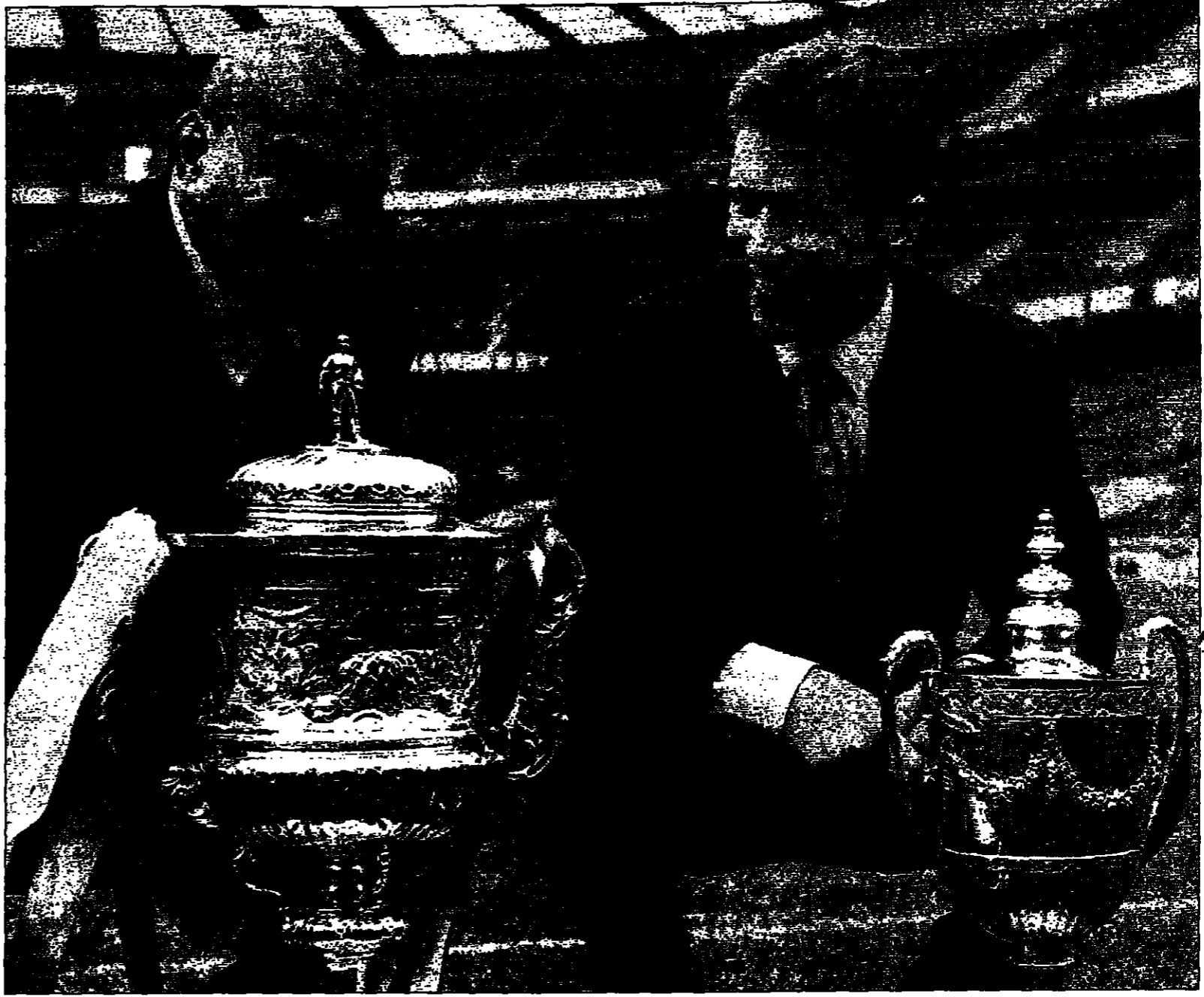
TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 733

- ACROSS: 1 Come near (8) 5 Gaffer, oyster spawn (4) 9 Poke into (to test) (5) 10 One born under the Bull (7) 11 Floating mass; sort of lettuce (7) 12 Touch of colour (5) 13 Social services architect; sounds like drink (9) 18 Sleeper (5) 20 Personal possession (7) 22 OT dry bones prophet (7) 23 Unexpected extra (5) 24 Meat paste (4) 25 Regularity of form (8) DOWN: 1 Young foreign helper (2,4) 2 Adage (7) 3 Grossly fat (5) 4 In downright fashion (13) 6 Song of triumph (5) 7 Underground passage (6) 8 Internally destroyed; very upset (slang) (6) 14 Harmful fauna (6) 15 Having died out (7) 16 Maintenance (6) 17 A superficial magazine (6) 19 Where we galloped all three from (5) 21 Photo, cuttings book (5)

SOLUTION TO NO 732: ACROSS: 1 Tuba 3 Colossus 9 Copse 10 Deified 11 Trinket 12 Idly 14 Remedy 16 Bethel 18 Alar 19 Equable 22 Agile 23 Stale 24 Overdrive 25 Asks DOWN: 1 Taciturn 2 Baptism of fire 4 Oddity 5 Orifice 6 Spill the beans 7 Suds 8 Meek 13 Clueless 15 Dormant 17 Rockeem 20 USSR 21 Sago



Tuigamala, left, of Wigan, and de Glanville, of Bath, at Twickenham to promote their rugby clubs' cross-codes matches. Report, page 44

Insular England left down the order

BY SIMON WILDE

SRI LANKA'S riotous gallop towards World Cup glory confirms how emphatically the balance of power in world cricket has shifted to the sub-continent, home to three of the past four World Cup winners. Power used to reside in England; now, their cricketers lag behind on the field while off it their administrators refuse to acknowledge the changed order. One-day cricket may not be as thorough an examination of character as Test cricket, but Sri Lanka are the new force in the game. They won the World Cup with flair and a refreshing iconoclasm towards the conventions of the limited-overs game. They were a delight to watch and yet English crowds will be denied the chance to see them — except for a brief and hastily pencilled-in stop-over for one Test match and a couple of

one-day internationals in 1998 — before they defend the World Cup here next year. This is no freak of scheduling. Sri Lanka were elevated to Test match status 14 years ago, yet England have consistently declined to play them in more than one-off Tests, the last in Colombo three years ago which ended in a heavy defeat. England's cricketers are used now to hurrying home from humiliating defeat on the sub-continent — defeat usually accompanied by cultural misunderstandings that make their excuses all the easier to ignore. Their unspoken assumption is that defeats there do not really matter: India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka are not the real opposition. Not that England do any better against others. Alan Smith, the chief executive of the Test and County Cricket Board (TCCB), confirmed this attitude when he



New world order — 45 Tarnished tournament — 45

spoke from Lahore yesterday of series against Australia being the foundation stones of England's schedule — followed by those against West Indies and South Africa. After those tours have been put in place — on four- and five-year cycles — other countries are fitted in around them. Smith last year "fitted in" an England tour of Sri Lanka in 2001 — number of matches unknown — and "at least" two Tests against Sri Lanka in England in 2002. Most other countries, though, play ball with Sri Lanka more often,

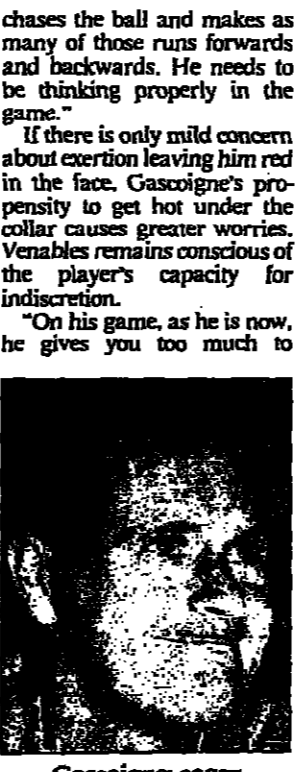
notably Australia, whose ten Test matches and 33 one-day internationals against them dwarf England's tallies of five and 12 respectively. Australia are due to tour Sri Lanka again for two Tests in August. The TCCB could invite Sri Lanka to take part in a one-day triangular tournament with a team already scheduled for a full Test tour — such as Australia next year — except that it still looks down its nose at one-day cricket, as good an indication as any that it is living in the past. Sri Lanka have for years wanted desperately to play England, but for how much longer? England are the ones who ought to be seeking the fixtures, in the hope that they can learn how to bat inventively, be reminded that rules are

there to be broken, and rediscover their passion. Meanwhile, the world moves on. Sri Lanka's next engagements are next month in two more places that do not feature prominently on the TCCB's map, but are hungry to see the World Cup winners — Singapore, for a three-way one-day tournament with India and Pakistan, and Sharjah. By the time that Sri Lanka defend the World Cup, Arjuna Ranatunga, their captain, and Aravinda de Silva, their match-winner in the final on Sunday, may have retired. Sanath Jayasuriya may have faded from the scene. Perhaps it will take a shrewd county to sign them (though it is too late for this year) — or a television entrepreneur — to bring them over before then.

Venables relishes signs of Gascoigne's revival

BY KEVIN MCCARRA

THE exasperating notion that Scottish football is labouring to bring about its own downfall is growing. A move to Rangers from Lazio last summer brought Paul Gascoigne not only to a place of refuge, after so many years of rumour, injury and surgery, but also to a season of rehabilitation. It now seems possible that he could reward his benefactors with cruelty. The honing of the England midfielder player may leave him in ideal condition to overwhelm Scotland at Wembley on June 15 in the European championship finals. Although far too diplomatic to taunt anyone with the irony of the situation, Terry Venables, in Glasgow for the Old Firm match on Sunday, was frank in his appreciation of Gascoigne's progress. The England coach saw Rangers draw 1-1 with Celtic. Gascoigne set up the opening goal with a dipping free kick. His prospects of reaching the standards set in his early years are discussed with neurotic frequency. Yesterday, Venables was optimistic when met with those inquiries. "I think he's not far from getting it all back," he said. "The strength and acceleration with the ball are there and the strutting arrogance has returned as well."



Gascoigne: eager

contemplate leaving him out, unless he plays less well or his behaviour becomes damaging," Venables said. "Then, you have to make a cold decision." While others might dwell on offences committed, however, it is Gascoigne's innocence as a footballer that makes the deepest impression. His uncomplicated craving to play the game has only been increased by the four years in which injuries confined him to sporadic appearances. "He

really wants to win the league with Rangers," Venables said, "because he feels some of the failure would attach to him otherwise. "Gascoigne is a giver who is liked by other players, not a selfish star. He never wants any special privileges in training and the challenge for him is to be one of the boys." The England coach then made an analogy with one of his former, Scottish teammates at Tottenham Hotspur in the 1960s. "Gascoigne is a bit like Dave Mackay, who used to take everyone on in six-a-sides with the first team and then go back in against the reserves. Paul was the same at Spurs." Recollections of Mackay come easily to mind as the England v Scotland fixture returns after an absence of eight years. Venables is hopeful that it will now become an annual event. Scotland continued their plans to give him an afternoon he will wish to forget when Craig Brown, the manager, named his squad yesterday for the game against Australia at Hampden Park on March 27. "It is," he said, "very close to the one I will take to the European championship."

Ginola and Cantona excluded by France

BY DAVID MADDOCK AND RUSSELL KEMPSON

AIMÉ JACQUET, the national football coach of France, has offered the broadest hint yet that Eric Cantona and David Ginola can book their summer holidays. The inference yesterday, as Jacquet named full and B squads to face Belgium next week, was that the pair will not be required for the European championship finals in June. Neither Cantona, of Manchester United, nor Ginola, of Newcastle United, was among a total of 33 players named for the two squads for the internationals and, while that will come as no surprise to Ginola, it will be something of a shock to Cantona. He met Jacquet recently and appeared to have reached a peace accord. Cantona agreed to join the squad with no guarantee of selection. Jacquet seems to have gone back on even that limited agreement however, and he was at pains to stress the pair now have little immediate prospect of a recall. "We have been 19 games unbeaten without Cantona, and I believe it is right to carry on the way we have," Jacquet said. Bontcho Guentchev, the Luton Town forward, and Bob Mihalov, the Reading goalkeeper, have been included in the Bulgaria squad for the match against England at Wembley on March 27.

Advertisement for Skelmersdale featuring 'Just for the record' and 'OVER 200 PRIVATE SECTOR INVESTMENT'.

Advertisement for 'Peking to everyone' featuring a portrait of a man and text about business opportunities.

السنة من الأنا

Chinese evacuate islanders ahead of new war games

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN PEKING

CHINA and Taiwan evacuated residents from small offshore islands where Peking was due to start new land, sea and air exercises yesterday.

The war games are designed to influence Saturday's first direct presidential elections in Taiwan, as American warships sail off the country's eastern coast. But officials in Taipei said they thought fog and heavy seas had delayed the manoeuvres.

A state radio official on Pingtan island, a command post for the Chinese war-games, said Peking had ordered people on dozens of small islands in the northern section of the Taiwan Strait to evacuate to the mainland, a few miles away.

The order was issued by the radio station yesterday at the request of the People's Liberation Army and Government, though no time was given for the start of the exercises, which are the third in a series.



PLA tanks, troops, transporters and other vehicles were seen in the streets of Pingtan, off Fujian province and the nearest mainland-held island to Taiwan, officials said.

Fishermen were forced to stop operations in the area, sending fish prices soaring. Taiwan's financial markets, which have been buffeted by the crisis, were calm.

Local people said many military planes were flying over Pingtan and a large

number of naval vessels were in port. Residents along the eastern coastline said city airports had been taken over and thousands of troops were being moved in for the exercises, which are the closest ever to be held to Taiwanese territory.

The Taiwan authorities have also evacuated outlying islets. A Reuters photographer on the Taiwan-controlled islet of Tung Chu, ten miles from China's exercise zone, watched as an air-raid drill sent all 87 remaining residents into shelters in near-silence. "All shops were immediately closed and streets are completely empty," Simon Kwong reported.

At least a hundred Tibetans and members of Amnesty International-Nepal were arrested here during protests over human rights abuses in China, police and Amnesty said. (AFP)

Leading article, page 17

Ageing tanks growl defiance

FROM DAVID WATTS IN HSIN-CHU AND JONATHAN MIRSKY IN TAIPEI

COOL reflection is in the nature of Lieutenant-General Gao An-guo.

Taiwan is being slowly squeezed by Peking's army of three million and some of its inhabitants are fleeing outlying islands to escape the latest war games, but the general, who resembles the tanks he put on show yesterday — middle-aged, powerful and with a growl in his voice — stands firm.

"Our tanks are pretty old," he says at the 3rd Armoured Division's base at Hsin-chu, an hour's drive south of Taipei. "But so are theirs. We can be mobilised pretty quickly if we have to, but I do not think that will be for a long time. Are we ready for anything? Well, what is anything? Whatever it is, it will not be soon."

His tanks and self-propelled guns clanked through Hsin-chu's sticky red clay and, under a freezing rain, soldiers charged at "enemy



Taiwanese troops carry a shell during an exercise in the north of the island yesterday involving 60 tanks

positions that flew the Communist flag. On the surrounding hills huge signs proclaimed "One heart, one mind, one country; resist the Communists". Signs like this appeared at one time on nearly every wall in Taiwan. But over the past ten years of little tension, they have become steadily less relevant. Of course, if action comes, it will not be in Hsin-chu's red hills and it will not be in exchanges of tank fire. It will be on beaches, like the one on the northern tip of Taiwan where earlier in the day Nationalist soldiers impersonating the People's Liberation Army

stormed ashore to be repelled by Taiwanese defenders. It would be on such a beach that Taiwan's final battle would be fought. The Chinese Army, if it got that far, would have to be stopped there. Once it was inland, General Gao's tanks would not last long against what would be a

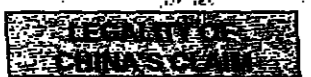
landing force of 750,000 men, more than twice the size of Taiwan's entire army. However, nobody thinks that that kind of struggle is imminent. Indeed, the tank brigade at Hsin-chu, General Gao said, is at readiness level five, the least "ready" on a scale of one to five.

History bequeaths a jumble of clues to sovereignty

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY IN TAIPEI

IN THE run-up to Saturday's presidential election, the real issue for many Taiwanese is that although they are ethnically Chinese, politically they identify with the island.

For them the period since 1945, when Nationalist China resumed control of Taiwan after losing it to Japan in 1895 after the Sino-Japanese War, has no relevance. Fervent proponents of independence describe the Nationalist forces of Chiang Kai-shek, who ruled Taiwan after 1949, as a rabble defeated by the Communists.



and with no mandate to re-establish China's authority over the island.

"We never asked them to come," a Taiwanese patriot explained at a recent rally of people opposed to President Lee Teng-hui's bid to be the first popularly elected President in Chinese history.

Although Mr Lee is a Taiwanese, his opponents claim that deep down he longs for some form of reunification with mainland China, a claim that would surprise the Communist hierarchy in Peking.

But in the future, how secure is Peking's claim to Taiwan? In 1936, Mao Tse-tung had stated that when China regained its full

strength it would make no claim to Taiwan as a lost territory but would help the island in its "struggle for independence".

Quoting the Great Helmsman's statement is certain to rattle Peking when it makes its bellicose assertions that China is Taiwan's sovereign. But it holds little more weight than other Mao *mois* such as "Childbirth is not painful, only women think it is".

China's claim of sovereignty is not ancient. Peking exercised various degrees of control over Taiwan, increasingly settled by Han who drove the non-Han peoples into the mountains, until 1623, when it was ceded to the Dutch. They lost it to a Chinese pirate, Koxinga, in 1662. In 1683, the newly established Manchu dynasty regained the island. In 1887, Taiwan was incorporated as a fully fledged province until it was lost to Japan, in accordance with the Treaty of Shimonoseki of 1895.

In Cairo in 1943, China's right to regain Taiwan was endorsed, and in 1945 Chiang's troops took control. They treated the island like a captured enemy stronghold, looting it. In 1947, they massacred thousands of indigenous Taiwanese who demonstrated against their "liberators".

The Chinese claim to Taiwan is not as venerable as the 700-year case it makes for Tibet, which in any case is rejected by most non-Chinese historians. Ma Han-bao, a Grand Justice of Taiwan's Supreme Court, observed yesterday that "length of claim to ownership of land is irrelevant unless there is a prior claim. The length of the period has nothing to do with its legitimacy, as long as the claim is made legally and peacefully. Surely neither the Dutch nor Japan make such a prior claim. If Taiwan is not China's, whose is it?"

This will not please the independence movement, but then its argument is nationalistic and political, not legal.



Chiang: his forces seen as "rabble with no mandate"

Peking masses stick to everyday worries

BY JAMES PRINGLE

PEKING residents are more concerned about inflation, unemployment, official corruption and deteriorating law and order than about the crisis in the Taiwan Strait. The idea that war could break out seems almost unthinkable.

"I really have not considered a war at all," said one of two young professional women outside the Guiyou department store in central Peking. "There are enough other matters to concern us — like housing for young couples."

Many seem to agree with the Government's view that Taiwan is part of China, and that the US should not interfere. However, ordinary Chinese have little access to information outside the state-controlled media.

Chinese are more ready to talk to foreign journalists in public than in the years after the Tiananmen Square crackdown in 1989. Of more than 20 Chinese approached on a busy

main street yesterday, only one young couple said they had "no views, as the situation is not clear".

"This is a trial of strength between two states, China and the US," said a secretary, 25. "China has a secret weapon for dealing with these carriers," noted a 36-year-old clerk.

A man selling pirated CDs asked how many US aircraft carriers were involved and who supplied Taiwan with arms, then added: "But I can't keep up with that. All my energies are channelled into making a living."

Two 18-year-old schoolgirls said China had to act to prevent Taiwan declaring independence. "We discuss this a lot at school," one said.

A young woman researcher was less in line with party doctrine: "If there is a war with the US, the Americans would suffer more because they live in heaven. Chinese already live in hell on earth, so in a war what would we lose?"

Spend time arriving at the decision, not travelling to the meeting



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Riders of the storm pursue the ultimate thrill

LARRY MILLEN/SCIENCE PHOTO LIBRARY

Tucson, Arizona, the lightning capital of America, was the setting for the world's first convention of storm-chasers. They prefer to call themselves "severe weather interceptors", but "madcaps" might do as well. These are people who, at the first sign of deadly weather, will leap into a fast car and drive towards a tornado to photograph and study it, as well as revel in the dare.

Storm-chasing, provincial America's latest growth activity, will next month receive a boost with the release of a Steven Spielberg film called *Twister*. It features terrifying shots of real tornados, so destructive that those from the bluesterious parts of Britain will find hard to imagine.

Storms kill many people and cause millions of pounds of damage every year across the United States. The huge land mass creates unstoppable tempests. The storm season begins with tornados riding in from the Gulf of Mexico in mid-April, moves to thunder and lightning in the West during high summer, and concludes with Florida's autumnal hurricanes. At every stage, storm-chasers are there, whooping at the thrill.

■ Tornado-chasing is rural America's latest growth activity. At their first conference, Quentin Letts heard the hunters swap weather notes in Tucson

It was a mixed group that attended the conference here at the weekend: men and women, young and old, from computer buffs to farmers, photographers and retired meteorologists. The weather in Tucson was, to general contempt, dry and sunny, although Mel Walker, a whiskey Alabamian, peered hopefully at a cloud formation on the horizon. He was one of about 70 enthusiasts who attended the conference to swap storm knowledge, boasting about violent winds the way anglers describe fish.

"Had a vortex last year there pass right through my backyard," claimed a wild-haired man displaying storm photographs. "Took the roof off of my barn." His companion, a fat fellow, chuckled so much his spare tyre wobbled. "Ever seen a flash flood?" he asked in reply, indicating with satisfaction that he, for one, sure had.

The conference was organised by Warren Fairley, the only professional storm-chaser in the world and a man whose nose for a storm is respected by the emergency services, whom he alerts to incoming big blows. Mr Fairley, a former photographer for the *Tucson Citizen* who spends several months a year on the road in pursuit of severe weather, can literally smell a storm. "The moisture comes up from the Gulf, a haze develops and you can smell the ocean," he said, claiming a 70 per cent accuracy on storm forecasts.

The storms have various names — dust-devils, land-spouts, funnels, twisters and tornados — and rotate at speeds of up to 300mph. At the height of the season in Kansas and Oklahoma, scores of chase vehicles speed across the flatlands, scouring the horizon for the big storm — and the perfect photograph.

They do not often get speeding tickets. "Police are usually too busy speeding in the other direction," came the wry explanation.

Phil Henry, an engineer from Las Vegas, showed off his custom-built, cloud-stalker tornado vehicle, complete with satellite television link-ups, storm-tracking gadgetry, and a big sticker on the back saying "Severe Weather Interceptor". The vehicle's pilot is Henry's wife, Kathy, an amateur racing driver. She said: "I just get a real kick out of chasing storms. When we stop in those small country towns we are always surrounded by people asking us questions and advice."



A tornado photographed near Caldwell, Kansas, in March 1990. The violent, rotating column of air is characterised by a funnel-shaped cloud



Warren Fairley, the only professional storm-chaser in the world, at the wheel of his high-speed vehicle

Kent Wood, a veteran of the Tucson thunderstorm fraternity, described the day loose-flying lightning darted around the ceiling of his front parlour during an electrical storm. Tucson attracts spectacular lightning, he said, because it has a high cloud base and is set in a natural arena of mountains, complete with its trademark, *High Chaparral*-style cacti.

"Weather was always part of my life," said Mr Fairley, who helped Spielberg on *Twister* and shot the film's publicity poster which features a tornado. As a boy, Mr Fairley would bicycle into the middle of dust-devils. "They

are real hot inside and the air is orange. Near." He was once knocked off his feet by a bolt of lightning and is a veteran of Hurricane Andrew in 1992.

news bulletins around the world that August.

No storm-chaser has died, yet, although a man who recently dashed after a twister

have fuelled calls in Texas for "yahoo" storm-chasing to be banned, and a Kansas sheriff last season threatened to run them out of town.

From a cooler, Mr Fairley produced a grapefruit-sized ball of ice which hit his car during an hailstorm in Texas, smashing the windscreen and a side window. He gunned the engine for all it was worth and drove out of the storm at 100mph. A van behind him was unable to escape, and was wrecked by the hail. His vehicle still bears dents on its roof from that encounter, but its paintwork also features — like the scores notched on the fuselage of a Battle of Britain

fighter jet — many red dots, one for each tornado that he has witnessed.

The Spielberg film will attract even larger crowds of meteorological rubberneckers to the Midwest this storm season. There are also plans to hold next year's storm-chaser conference at a bigger venue such as Las Vegas.

For all their high-tech gear, some basic truths remain. "What is the most valuable part of your equipment?" a boffin-ish woman asked Mr Fairley as he stood by his gleaming vehicle. The professional storm-interceptor paused, sucked his gums, and replied: "The accelerator."

‘A man who dashed after a twister with his family in the car was lucky to emerge intact. His camera was sucked up and never found’

which devastated Miami and the Florida coast, left 15 dead and damage estimated at about \$10 billion (£6.5 billion). Mr Fairley's pictures made

with his wife and baby in the car was lucky to emerge with family intact. His camera equipment was sucked up and never found. Such incidents

Governors of key states pitch for job as Dole running-mate

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

THE Senate cloakroom has undoubtedly witnessed several intriguing events over the years and it was here last week that John Engler, the Governor of Michigan, probably made his most obvious pitch for the Vice-Presidency of the United States.

During an opportune meeting with Bob Dole, outside the cloakroom with its pristine towels and sparkling taps, Mr Engler said the Republican Governors' Association would sanction the Kansas senator for the presidential nomination the next day and as the group's chairman he also would make a personal endorsement.

His backing has certainly helped Mr Dole in the run-up to the Michigan primary today but the significance of Mr Engler's endorsement goes far beyond the ballot box tonight in which polls suggest an easy victory for the 72-year-old Senate majority leader.

The industrial hearthland of

Michigan, and the other Great Lake states of Ohio, Wisconsin and Illinois — each of which is holding a primary today — are the effective battleground for the 1996 election and critical to any Dole triumph over President Clinton. Both Mr Dole and the White House predict that the Oval Office will be won or lost in the Midwest and California.

For the first time in decades, each of the most important Midwest states, and California, has a Republican governor, and Governors Tommy Thompson of Wisconsin, George Voinovich of Ohio,

Jim Edgar of Illinois and, of course, Mr Engler are all desperate to prove how useful they will be for Mr Dole in November.

Each hopes to gain second place on his presidential ticket as a prize. Assuming that General Colin Powell, Mr Dole's first choice for a Republican Vice-President, continues to reject the position, any one of them has a good chance. None has been shy in offering his unguarded loyalty to Mr Dole and has said he would not turn down the opportunity to run as Vice-President.

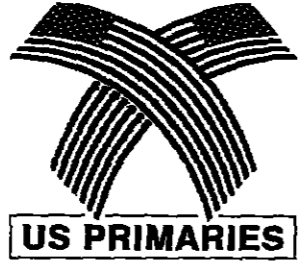
"I was the first governor to come out for him," said Mr Voinovich. "I will work day and night to elect Bob Dole, and so will every Republican in Michigan," said Mr Engler. For his part, Mr Thompson said: "I hope he'll pick a Republican governor if it's not Colin Powell. It will strengthen the ticket."

More than Mr Edgar, political commentators in America

consider these three to be the main contenders for the number two slot. They are conservative, anti-abortion Catholics who would strengthen the nominee among those on the right of the party and may even provide him a means of rapprochement with Pat Buchanan, the conservative commentator whose rhetoric had riven the party in early primaries.

Mr Engler is undoubtedly the favourite of the Christian Right, which had delivered Mr Dole the South Carolina primary and effectively ended the embarrassing progress of Mr Buchanan.

There are reservations within the Dole camp, however. On being greeted with news of his impending endorsement, Mr Dole told Mr Engler that he wished the announcement could have been made in Michigan rather than Washington. The senator's aides are unhappy also that the support had come so late in the day.



Fast food takes off without frying licence

New York: The McDonald's hamburger company is going into the airline catering business (Quentin Letts writes). A Swiss charter plane will be painted in the McDonald's colours, some cabin staff will wear McDonald's outfits, and the inflight food, instead of the customary cold collection, will be Big Macs and chicken McNuggets.

The service will be introduced on April 1, which initially led some people to suspect an April Fool trick, but the company and its Swiss airline collaborator, Crossair, confirmed yesterday that

the project is no hoax. It will serve charter routes from Geneva and Zurich to popular European holiday resorts.

In line with the McDonald's practice of prefiring products with "Mc", the 161-seater MD83 jet will be known officially as the McPlane. Its fuselage will be painted to depict the McDonald's golden arches, and the cabin seats will be upholstered in bright red leather. McPlane's interior will seek to create the atmosphere of a McDonald's high street outlet, complete with "Have a nice day" greetings from the cockpit.

Reto Meister, a Crossair spokesman, said yesterday: "The whole appearance of the plane will be of a McDonald's restaurant." He did not know if the cabin drinks trolley would be replaced by a milkshake dispenser. Chips, or "fries" in the McDonald's argot, have been ruled out because of the danger of using a deep-fat fryer in turbulent conditions. Crossair is a subsidiary of Swissair, and 80 per cent of its normal passengers are businessmen. Mr Meister said the service would be limited, initially, to one holiday charter route.



Gingrich: trying to steer clear of controversy

Gingrich learns to button lip

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

INCREDIBLE as it would once have seemed, Newt Gingrich, the House Speaker, has been silenced.

A year ago he was leading a "revolution" that had President Clinton reeling. His *Contract with America* was being hailed as a work of genius. He dominated the headlines.

Today Mr Gingrich maintains a low profile and shies from all controversy. He has ceded the day-to-day running of the House to Richard Armey, his deputy. He readily admits to being the "junior partner" now Robert Dole is the party's presidential nominee and promises "to do everything I can to help him".

Mr Dole's priority is now winning the presidency. Mr Gingrich's is maintaining Republican control of the House. The same tactics are required for both goals, and the two men must cast off the "extremist" tag.

America shifts ground towards landmine ban

BY MICHAEL BINFON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

BRITISH and American officials may this week take the first step towards banning landmines, which kill and maim about 20,000 civilians in the Third World every year.

The emotive issue will be on the agenda at a routine meeting in Washington of senior officials from the Cabinet Office and the Ministry of Defence with their American counterparts.

General John Shalikashvili, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, has ordered a review of the Pentagon's long-standing opposition to a ban on mines. He told military chiefs last week that he was "inclined to eliminate all anti-personnel mines".

His remarks came after a movement in Congress to ban mines following the wounding of three American soldiers in Bosnia, where an estimated three million mines have been sown. Three Britons were killed by a mine in January.

Britain and the United States were isolated in Vienna last year when they opposed a world ban on the production and stockpiling of landmines. The conference collapsed without agreement. Britain, which manufactures mines, insists that they remain defensive weapons. Officials yesterday emphasised that General Shalikashvili was talking in a personal capacity. The Foreign Office said Britain's opposition to a ban was "constantly under review".

Next month the United Nations Inhumane Weapons Convention will reconvene in Geneva, and campaigners for a world ban are now trying to enlist military support. They have been encouraged by growing sentiment in the Pentagon that mines do not serve a military purpose and that the civilian cost is unacceptable.

Last June Britain and America launched an initiative in Budapest to stop mines falling into "inappropriate" hands, and Britain has insisted that all mines must self-destruct after a reasonable time. Since 1991, Britain has spent £17 million clearing some of the 100 million mines scattered across former fighting zones in 62 countries. British Army experts are clearing mines in Bosnia and other countries, but an estimated two million new mines are sown a year.

Defence consultants will this week publish a critical assessment arguing that, with Nato now primarily engaged in peacekeeping, mines have no role in post-Cold War military planning. The report, to be published by the Centre for Defence Studies, calls mines a "particularly odious" type of weapon.

Last week the British Medical Association passed a resolution demanding a ban on the use of mines.

□ Berlin: Soon after the Berlin Wall went up, the Soviet military chief in Berlin "suggested" that the East Germans lay mines to secure the border further, according to testimony yesterday at the manslaughter trial of six former Communist leaders. (AP)

Colombia captives 'in good health'

Copenhagen: Three Europeans, including Philip Halten, a Briton, and a Colombian abducted by Colombian guerrillas last month are in good health, according to F.L. Smidth, their Danish employer. It was the first information on the engineers' condition since they were abducted in early February. (AP)

Disco fire kills 30

Manila: Fire broke out at a packed disco in the Manila suburb of Quezon City and radio reports said more than 30 people were feared dead and many injured. The fire caused a stampede. (Reuters)

Tactics agreed

Tunis: Among measures announced by Jimmy Carter, the former US President, five African states will step up tactics against intimidators who have made 1.7 million Rwandans afraid to go home. (AP)

Democracy date

FreeTown: Sierra Leone's outgoing military junta decreed a March 31 deadline for the transition to democratic rule after Ahmad Tejan Kabbah was elected President on Friday. (AFP)

Koala cull plan

Sydney: South Australia's parks service is deciding whether to shoot or move 2,000 of the 5,000 koalas on Kangaroo Island to avoid a potentially disastrous population explosion. (AP)



"She was determined to make it to her daughter's wedding."

It took all of my nursing skill to get her there."

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Boost for Yeltsin simplifies race to stop Communists

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT Yeltsin is fast emerging as the only candidate with a hope of beating the Communists in the presidential elections in June.

According to the latest opinion polls, the Russian leader, dismissed only months ago as too unpopular to be re-elected and too ill to fight a campaign, has improved his standing from fifth to second place.

A poll by the Russian Centre for Public Opinion showed the President with 15 per cent support, up from 11 per cent last month and 5 per cent in January, when he trailed the pack. A Ramir agency poll also placed the Kremlin leader second, with 17 per cent.

Although Gennadi Zyuganov, whose Communist Party secured a third of the seats in last December's parliamentary elections, maintained his lead with 25 per

cent, his support had climbed by only one point in a month of heavy campaigning.

It is still too early to draw any firm conclusions from the results, but it does seem to confirm that the race, which is crowded with scores of presidential hopefuls, is becoming a two-man contest.

Under Russia's electoral laws, any candidate with the signatures of a million supporters can enter the presidential contest, due to take place on June 16. If none of the hopefuls secures more than 50 per cent of the votes, the top two challengers fight a run-off a month later.

The surge of support for President Yeltsin is due partly to his improved image. Where only a few months ago he was regarded as ailing, drunken and indecisive, he suddenly seems revitalised and his lat-

est public appearances have been energetic, robust and sober. The Russian leader has also benefited from clear political and financial support from the West.

Most important, President Yeltsin has outdistanced other presidential candidates, who so far have been unable to put together a credible "third force" to challenge the two front-runners.

In the absence of any alternative, many voters are coming to the conclusion that, while he may not be the ideal man to lead Russia, the Kremlin leader is the only figure capable of keeping the Communists out of power.

□ **Bomb defused:** A bomb found in a bus in west Moscow on Sunday was defused only 15 minutes before it was timed to go off, the security service said yesterday. (AFP)



An Italian peace implementation force soldier stands guard outside a burnt-out house in Grabovica, a Serb-held suburb of Sarajevo due to come under joint Muslim-Croat control today. Burning houses and blocks of

Sarajevo suburb burns

flats sent plumes of smoke billowing into the sky above the area as embittered departing Serbs set their homes alight. The neigh-

bourhood is the last of five Sarajevo districts being transferred to the Muslim-Croat Federation under the terms of the Dayton peace

agreement. In Geneva, Warren Christopher, the US Secretary of State, yesterday began talks with Balkan leaders aimed at ensuring full compliance with the terms of the Dayton accord. (Reuters)

New leader sees years of austerity for Sweden

Stockholm: Ingvar Carlsson, the Swedish Prime Minister, resigned yesterday to make way for Goran Persson, who saved Sweden from financial chaos by taking a knife to its vaunted welfare system (Michael Binyon writes).

Mr Persson, the burly former Finance Minister, was elected leader of the ruling Social Democratic Party at the weekend and formally takes over from Mr Carlsson on Friday. He told a special party congress that Sweden faced more years of austerity to restore economic health, create jobs and shape a new "Swedish model".

Defying a congress that wanted a swift return to Sweden's former huge welfare state, he said the country must bring its budget back into balance.

To appease leftwingers, who staged demonstrations outside the meeting, he promised to begin closing nuclear power plants within two years. But his promise has divided the labour movement.

Islamic suspects arrested

Israeli and Palestinian authorities yesterday arrested more suspected Islamic extremists (Ross Dunn writes).

One, a man aged 22, said he had planned to blow himself up in Tel Aviv last Wednesday — the day of the anti-terrorism summit in Egypt.

□ **Algiers:** A car bomb blast killed at least five people and injured ten others in Tizi-Ouzou, a town southeast of the capital. (AFP)

Tramp killed

Paris: Youths poured petrol over a tramp here and burned him to death. Police said they were seeking four youths seen running from the scene on Rue LaFayette in the early hours of Monday. (AFP)

Denktas better

Ankara: Rauf Denktas, the Turkish Cypriot leader who suffered a heart attack two weeks ago and was flown to Ankara for treatment, was discharged from hospital and returned to Cyprus. (AFP)

Benin votes

Cotonou: Turnout was more than 70 per cent by early afternoon in Benin's run-off presidential election. The former Marxist military leader, Mathieu Kerekou, is poised to defeat President Soglu. (AFP)

Nobel poet dies

Athens: Odysseus Elytis, 85, who inspired Greeks with his emotive poetry and won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1979, died a recluse at his home in Athens. (Reuters)

Obituary, page 19

Cricketing win halts Tamil war for a day

By CHRISTOPHER THOMAS SOUTH ASIA CORRESPONDENT

NATIONAL glory, millions of rupees, new cars and free holidays await Arjuna Ranatunga, the Sri Lankan cricket captain, who returned home with his team yesterday to an island drunk on victory.

For a day, at least, cricket even stopped the war. Liquor shops ran dry, bars bulged and members of the armed forces tuned to television and radio while keeping an ear cocked for the Tamil Tigers. The rebels presumably also listened to the game and the day passed quietly.

Some senior army officers left the war zone in the north to travel to Colombo to watch the game on television and off-duty soldiers were glued to televisions and radios.

The Tigers returned to battle yesterday by killing 18 soldiers on the northern Jaffna peninsula with a landmine. Although torn over who to support, most of the island's Tamils clearly backed the national side, which was made up almost entirely of Sinhalese players.

The Tamil minority did not join in street celebrations after the victory, conveying their sense of political, social and even sporting isolation. Their areas of Colombo, the capital, were quiet while the rest of the city went wild.

President Kumaratunga Bandaranaike congratulated the team. "Although we are a tiny country we have proved to be world beaters and you have brought honour and fame to our country," she said.

Leading article, page 17
World Cup review, page 45

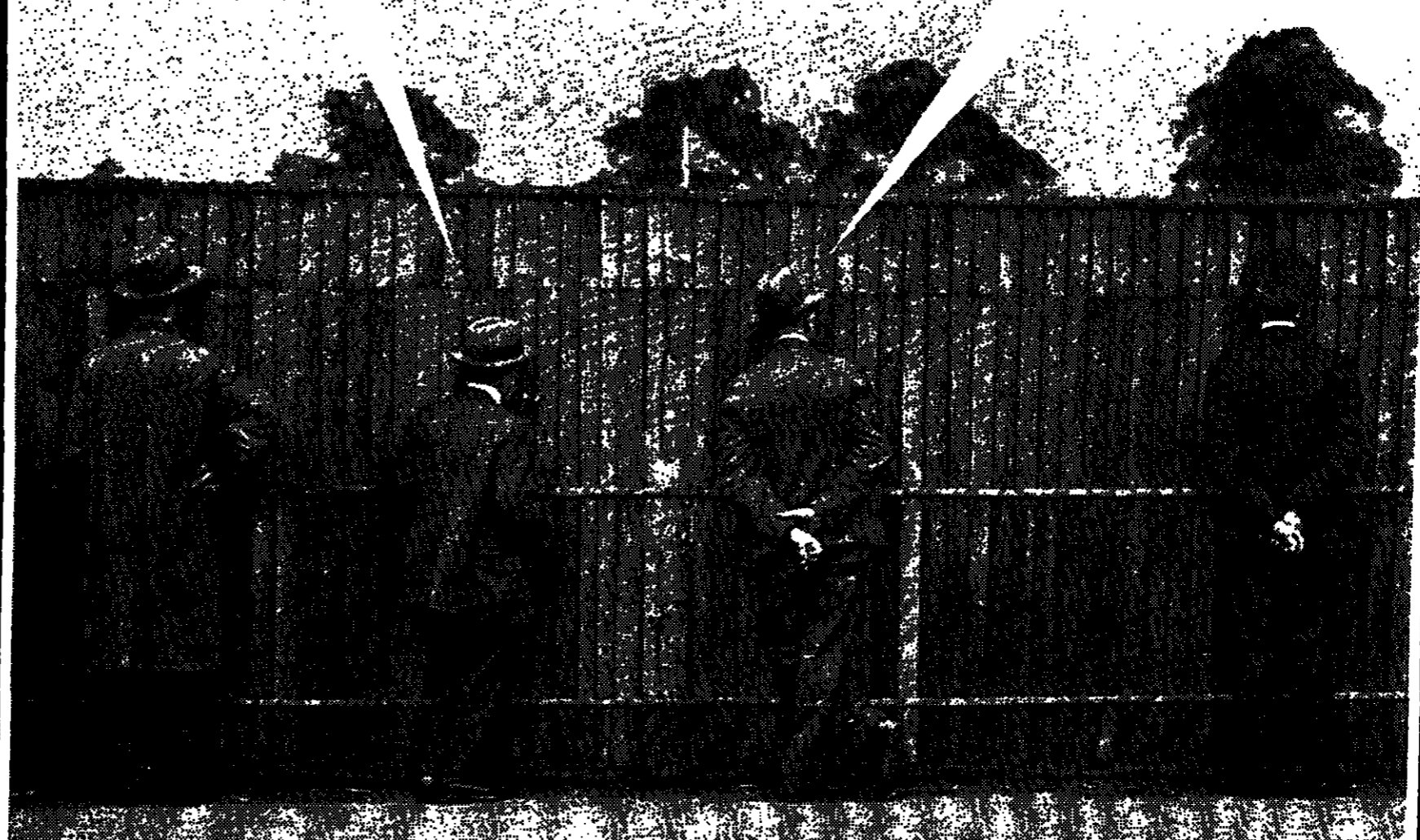
French reveal face of single currency

The French mint put the first euros into circulation yesterday in the shape of a coin, right, with a face value of 75 euros and 500 francs (Ben Macintyre writes). They are unlikely to turn up as loose change, since they are made of 24-carat gold and cost 5,000 francs (£650) each. The coin is a collectors' item as euro production is not due to start until the end of the century.



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Why TB remains a global menace

An ancient killer in our midst

I recently saw a friend who has retired from the Civil Service. Since retirement he has busied himself around the house and garden, working hard just as he did when serving in Whitehall.

He found that his new lifestyle was unexpectedly tiring. And in addition to being short of energy, he found that he could no longer use his right hand efficiently, as he was developing pain in the tendons leading to the thumb, and in the thumb joint.

A diagnosis of tenosynovitis — inflammation of a tendon — was made, together with some possible arthritis in the thumb joint. Doctors puzzled over the cause. Had the patient been using some new household or garden tool?

Was he writing more? Was he suffering from repetitive strain injury?

No explanation was found and his thumb became progressively worse until finally he saw an orthopaedic surgeon who made the diagnosis: TB at the joint, with inflammation of the overlying tendon sheath. With chemotherapy his thumb was soon back to normal, there is no residual loss of use and all his energy has returned.

Like nearly everybody else brought up before the war, my friend had doubtless had TB as a child, but his natural resistance had overcome the infection and he had acquired some immunity to the bacillus. But however efficient someone's resistance to tuberculosis, there are usually a few residual tuberculous bacilli left slumbering away in a "walled-off" site of infection.

In older people, natural resistance falls so that it only needs some current infection — a lingering attack of flu, for instance, or a period of anxiety — for the slumbering organism to awaken and spread.

The increasing rate of TB in Britain is causing some worry, and is due to recrudescence of TB in older people as the average age of the population goes up, together with HIV infection and immigration from the Third World.

Our problems with the disease are, however, mod-

est compared with those experienced overseas. The World Health Organisation has nominated this Sunday, March 24, as the day when the attention of the world will be focused on the international menace of tuberculosis.

Professor Sir John Crofton, who chairs the WHO working party on guidelines for the control of TB, says: "The best treatment for TB has always been prevention — and the most efficient form of prevention is to cure those who are suffering from it as fast as possible, so that they stop infecting others."

Sir John has found that in some parts of the world, there is a problem convincing people of the need to keep taking their treatment for at least six months.

sometimes longer. Some patients are tempted to stop as soon as they feel better, even though they will continue to be infectious if they give up their chemotherapy. Short courses of treatment tend to breed resistant strains of tuberculosis.

Infection with HIV continues to spread rapidly in Africa, India and South America. In 1987, only 1 per cent of prostitutes in Calcutta were HIV infectious. Now 51 per cent are. Many of these will later return to their homelands, taking with them HIV and TB.

Because the effectiveness of their immune systems is reduced, HIV patients are highly vulnerable to TB infection. Recently two patients with HIV were waiting to see their doctor when a third patient with TB was wheeled past on the way to the theatre for a bronchoscopy. This fleeting contact was sufficient to infect both the HIV patients with tuberculosis.

One of Britain's contributions to fighting TB worldwide has been the production of a straightforward manual for doctors and health workers in the Third World. *Clinical Tuberculosis*, edited by John Crofton, Norman Horn and Fred Miller (Macmillan, £10), has already been translated into nine languages, and versions in another five are being prepared.



DR THOMAS STUTTAFORD

Massaged into oblivion



Men tend to go to health farms, such as this one in the film *Separate Beds*, at their wives' insistence — and then become highly competitive about losing weight and working out

From the gym to the sauna and the wax treatment. Magnus Linklater spent a day at a health farm and found that it wasn't just his body that was pummelled

Health farms are not for men. That much one knows. They are for ladies of a certain age, with too much time, money — and cellulite. How, then, did I find myself sitting last week in a steam cabinet, my face a lively shade of magenta, while a young woman in a crisp white apron sat near by, watching, she said, in case I had a heart attack?

There is, of course, an explanation. I went because my wife thought we should go. "It's usually the wife's idea," said the young woman later as she pummelled an intransigent neck muscle. "The husbands are reluctant at first, but then they get very competitive about weight loss and so on." She pointed me in the direction of the Jacuzzi, and I shuffled off in my green towelling dressing-gown, nursing an aching neck muscle.

The weight loss was certainly appealing, but I was more doubtful about the "and so on". This, according to the programme issued on Day One, included health, beauty, fitness, and the French facial would surely be wasted effort. And I recoil instinctively from the word "pam-

per", which conjures up images of the rich and the overfed, the ones who need it least. Instead, I chose health and fitness, in a futile effort to introduce a little stern Calvinism into this hedonistic exercise.

Trailing from hydrotherapy to ultrasonic reflexology to micro-current treatment, is not, I have to report, as stimulating for the mind as it is for the body. Numbled by small-talk, you are massaged into oblivion. There is something relentlessly banal about most health farm conversations. They fall into certain predictable categories: "Is this your first time?" "No, we come every year, it's more of a holiday really," or "How did you get on at the gym/sauna/pool aerobic?" Personally, I swear by the paraffin wax treatment, or "I'm afraid I'm way over my calorie count, but I just couldn't resist another piece of cheesecake".

Most of my preconceived notions crumbled rapidly. The modern

health farm is no longer called a health farm, it's a spa. And it's a great deal more than mineral water and hot springs.

The upmarket models (we were at Stobo Castle near Peebles in the Scottish Borders) have long abandoned the lettuce leaf and carrot juice in favour of gourmet menus which, while balanced to the last degree of dietary correctness, are nevertheless extraordinarily hard to resist.

There are cold buffets of smoked salmon, marinated herring, and, my God, new potatoes, steaks and salads, all with their calorific values written alongside: second helpings of crème caramel; they even allow you wine for dinner. In compensation, high-tech gyms are *de rigueur*, although they seemed to be sparingly used.

The men are vastly outnumbered by the women, who come either with a female friend, taking a break from

work, or on their own, escaping from the family. We met a surprising number who had been given a health spa holiday by their husbands, who had not, however, joined them. One could only guess at the thought behind the gift.

I had vaguely imagined, from reading about the Princess of Wales and her health club, that these places, full of lightly-clad ladies and athletic men, must be sexually charged, with assignations regularly negotiated over the exercise bike. Alas, not so.

There is something curiously antiseptic about scores of middle-aged women, all thinking hard about their waistlines and their skin-tone; it may have something to do with the green towelling dressing-gowns. Not once was I approached by a vision in Lycra, asking breathlessly "What does a girl have to do to get a cup of coffee round here?"

Gradually, as the brain moves onto autopilot, you begin to forget the

absurdity of the whole exercise. Like lying supine, with pads strapped around the waist, while mini-electric currents convey the impression of small rodents gnawing at your stomach. Or lying prone and having liquid wax poured over your spine, which is faintly indecent; or sitting in a warm pool of swirling water, as pointless an activity as it is possible to imagine. Just as the body is being soothed by all this unaccustomed attention, so the mind is numbed by unconvincing, but vaguely reassuring, explanations: "This improves muscle tone and is an aid to reducing body fat... alleviates aches and pains and relieves fluid retention... softens and penetrates the skin, releasing impurities... stimulates circulation... helps you to win the National Lottery." After a time, you believe anything.

But the most ridiculous thing of all is at the end of it, you feel better. You emerge with a warm glow, the skin tingling, determined to embark on a new and healthy life, at least until the next gin and tonic. I stepped onto the scales for my final check-up. "Well done," beamed my masseuse. "You've lost a pound." I punched the air in triumph.

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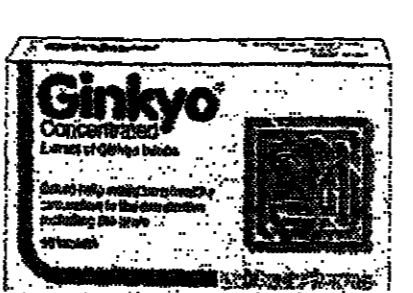


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Inhalers may no longer be needed

A pill for asthma

MILD TO moderate asthmatics may soon be able to dispense with their inhalers: a new treatment in tablet form is just over the horizon. Leukotriene inhibitors are still in the research stage but extensive clinical trials have now been completed. In America an application has been made to register one such compound — zileuton — and this and similar products may be available in the UK soon.

Leukotrienes are by-products of arachidonic acid, a fatty acid released from cell membranes by enzymes. In the laboratory, they have proved to be potent constrictors of airway muscle, and they also cause increased mucus production and leakage of fluid and inflammatory cells from airway blood vessels. In asthmatics, leukotriene levels rise during acute spontaneous attacks and after provocation with allergens, aspirin and exercise. The effect of leukotrienes can be moderated either by

blocking specific receptor sites or by inhibiting their production. Zileuton is an example of a biosynthesis inhibitor. A study reported by Dr Elliott Israel in the *Annals of Internal Medicine* in 1993 of 139 patients with mild to moderate asthma who were not on oral or inhaled steroids showed improvements when zileuton was administered orally for up to six weeks. Immediate relief of wheezing was observed after a single dose, although after two hours the effect was less than half that which could be obtained with a Ventolin inhaler.

Leukotriene interventions will improve lung function levels by 15 to 20 per cent. This is of the same order as low to moderate doses of inhaled steroids and should offer an alternative. If long-term comparative trials with steroids also show clinical benefits, a reduction in their use may also be possible.

DR LAURENCE KNOTT

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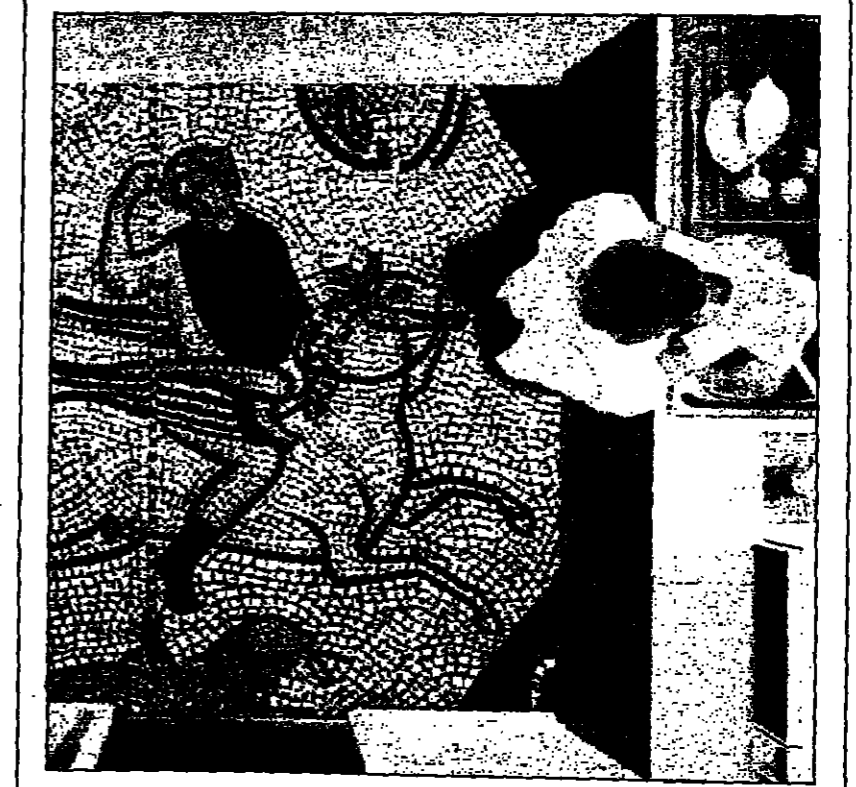
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After Las Vegas, no one wants Britain's favourite boxer to get back in the ring. Giles Coren suggests a few alternative career moves

The scars may darken, and the surgeon's knife reconstruct the eyebrow Frank Bruno gave his country on Sunday morning, but there is one thing that will never heal. The nurses have hung a "Do Not Resuscitate" sign on his career. As if anyone would be fool enough to try.

But what can Frank do now? He is too nice to make a debt collector or bouncer, and too famous to open a pub. But he is coming into the high-profile job market at a good time, and there are many vacancies for a man of his stature and integrity.

The Independent, for example, is looking for a new Editor. Frank is known to have been on the shortlist for some time, only delaying his retirement until he is given the nod by the Mirror Group chief executive David Montgomery. The acting Editor, Charlie Wilson, will doubtless express relief "that at least I am not being replaced by some poncey intellectual". It may sound ridiculous



Britain's opportunity knocks

but the 500,000 people who paid for eight minutes of Bruno on Sunday morning could do wonders for the newspaper's circulation figures.

A job running a privatised amenity, however, would be more likely to produce the sort of pay cheques to which

Frank is accustomed. The news that Trevor Newton is to retire as managing director of Yorkshire Water offers an intriguing possibility. He and Bruno could swap jobs. Frank's handling of the press is second to none, and no one would attack a company of which he was in command. Newton could make a packet in the ring; there would be no shortage of contenders lining up to fight him, and the whole of Yorkshire would pay-per-view to see him get a pasting.

And what about Channel 4's *The Girlie Show*? Rachel Williams, its American presenter, has been unable to get a work permit — no such problem with true Brit Frank, who, apart from being a consummate television performer, could dress up as an ugly sister and easily fool drunken late-night audiences.

What will Frank do next?

He could temper the bitchiness of the show, and the unpleasantly titled feature that refers to the sin of Onan could be renamed "Franker of the Week".

It may be, however, that Bruno will prefer to take his broadcasting career in a more serious direction. *The Times*' recent "Save Peter Hobday" campaign seems to have fallen on deaf ears, so may we suggest that he be replaced on the *Today* programme by one who is always firm but fair, never gives anything but his best, and is famously keen to establish whether people know what he means.

Then there are the top sports jobs. While temperamentally unsuited to Test cricket, Frank would have been an ideal leader in the wham-bam showmanship of the pyjama World Cup. Equally, his

services as and bulldog captain would be invaluable to England in the European football championships.

But it is as a replacement for Will Carling that Bruno could make the biggest impact. As England rugby captain, he would strengthen the scrum and put fire in the other 14 bellies. Then, of course, he would be in a position to escort the Princess of Wales, who has been flagging in the popularity polls. A couple of dates with Frank would have the tabloids right behind her again.

The employment agency, Reed Personnel, has a more sensible idea. "He should become a financial adviser for lottery winners," said a consultant. "He could teach anyone who has made millions overnight for doing

practically nothing how to stay a well-loved nice guy."

It is important, however, to make full use of Frank's fantastic physique. Plans for the rescue of the Leaning Tower of Pisa, under review this week, include the building of a giant statue of Atlas next to the tower, which would take the weight on its shoulders and prevent it falling. Why not save the construction fees and employ Frank?

Whatever he decides to do he must be careful not to go the way of Joe Bugner, whose vineyard business in Australia recently went bankrupt, forcing him back into the ring at the age of 45. But he might follow the example of ex-champion and preacher George Foreman. And why stop there? The Vatican itself will soon be looking for a new champion. With all the skulluggery that has blighted the papacy in past years, who better to step in than the irreproachable Bruno? Pope Frank will at least be used to going down on his knees.

Forget the superhighway, get a life



Janet Street-Porter claims that the Internet is inhabited by sad, stunted individuals afraid of the real world

Every decade needs some kind of blotting paper to soak up the socially challenged: in the past it has been things like designer drugs, religious cults and coloric irrigation. The Seventies gave us the Moonies, the Eighties aura cleansing and rebirthing. Now the Nineties have spawned the mega cult of all time, the ultimate tool to keep the nerds off the streets — the Internet.

Internet fans claim we can all enter a cyberworld, a global community of virtual pleasure and raw information. For them it is an imaginary wonderland decorated with every kind of online art, popularised by exotic individuals, all released from the accidents of age, sex and geography, united only by their shared interests and their commitment to this bright, modern technopia.

According to these devotees, the Internet is a self-regulating system, a technological experiment being built from the bottom up, with real participatory democracy, absolute free speech, no censorship and no boundaries. You can make real friends there and you can find anything you are looking for — information, truth, love, sex, games, whatever. In short, it's a place for the soul and imagination to run riot.

But in reality this talk is just hot air to keep net devotees silently tapping away on keyboards engrossed in the myth, while the non-believers get on with living real lives. The future isn't wired. In fact historians will look back on the 1990s and the current surge of techno-hype and net-euphoria as a bizarre blip, a meaningless cul de sac in the cultural story of the 20th century.

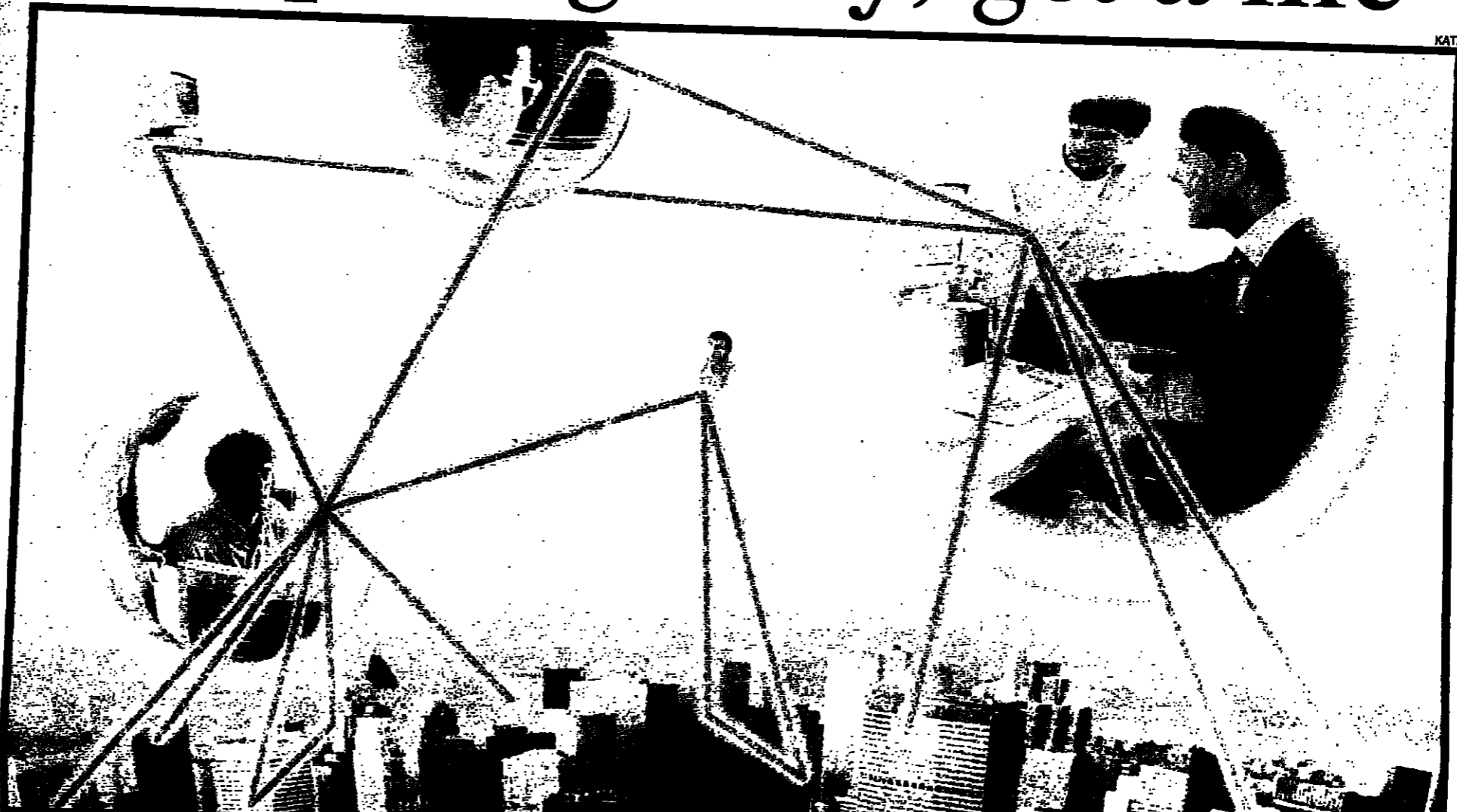
nest diatribes on continuity errors in *The X-Files* and alternative plot-twists in *Star Trek - The Next Generation*. This is not my idea of Utopia. No one meant the Internet to become this behemoth that fills our papers with unreadable sections and turns once-interesting adults into glibbling adolescent bores — not even its inventors. The people who designed it wanted to keep it to themselves. They were busy making a military communications system that would survive a nuclear war by routing messages around any damage.

But then the whole thing got kidnapped by boffins and students who moulded it into a never-ending academic conference, with discussion groups and role-playing games. For a while the net was the province of geeks and nerds and no one knew anything about it. Happy days, now long gone.

But in the last few years it mutated again into a giant open-ended web of documents, graphics, sounds and moving pictures, the World Wide Web, and in this incarnation it has become a fully fledged mass medium, with advertising and celebrities, subscriptions and catastrophic levels of crime. Because the web is readily accessible — and anyone can publish — it is the techno version of CB radio, with as much quality control as home-brewed beer.

To enter this world you need unlimited time to wade through the morass of rubbish. Sometimes you stumble upon interesting snippets, but you need to be keen and ready to waste large chunks of your life. Everybody from the Rolling Stones to Guinness have created Web "sites" in order to sell you something. How terribly Utopian.

What the net needs is a kind of filter. "Maybe people are expressing fear of technology, what they're secretly telling you is that they're feeling paralysed by the number of information options



Keeping their distance: the participants in cyber-sex relationships hide behind false identities, false sexualities, false reactions. A virtual chat-up will never replace the real thing

they have available to them," says Doug Coupland, author of *Microserfs and Generation X*. "I think for example we might have to teach children in school in the future not only basic information, but how to choose, how to locate information; it's just about as important as knowing what to do with the information once you get it."

'They talk of surfing the net; in reality it isn't even paddling'

A huge amount of information on the net lacks authority. After all, it's put there by everyone from hungry multinational corporate spiders to lone-off libertarian nutters in log cabins in Oregon. You may be able to log on to

President Clinton's homepage at the White House, but it doesn't actually advance democracy one iota. In fact political debate exists on a level that would disgrace the average saloon bar. The net won't give us real relationships either: virtual friends and virtual communities are just more empty promises. Cyber-types call bodies "meat" and eulogise "shedding the flesh" — they aren't

turned on by reality. So sex, surely one of the most primal, exciting and complex bodily experiences, gets transformed in cyber-world into a series of impersonal fantasies.

The participants in cyber-sex relationships hide behind false identities, false sexualities, false reactions. A virtual chat-up will never replace the real thing. Is staring at a pixelated naked torso as exciting as touching a clothed one? And accessing anything takes a disproportionate amount of time. No wonder people need to talk themselves up with surfing metaphors — the reality isn't even paddling or ambling, it's more like sitting in a traffic jam waiting for the lights to change — and they don't. That is the truth about the information superhighway: it is already overcrowded and logjammed.

It is fascinating that, in spite of all the frenzy about the Internet and the information superhighway, people are increasingly choosing real experiences. Attendances at art galleries are up. So are book sales. There are more specialist magazines (printed on paper) than ever. There has been an explosion of participatory sports, from rock-climbing to mountain-biking, from walking to snowboarding. We want real experiences, real communities, not virtual ones. We want real conversations, not Internet relay chat and cyberspeak. And we still prefer real sex, not the virtual kind where you can't share a drink and a cigarette with your partner afterwards.

We have already voted for the future, and it's the world of where experiences come in 3-D, not via a silent one-dimensional screen with second-rate imagery and fourth-rate information.

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Regulation counts more than taxation

Government is not just about money, says Anatole Kaletsky

Once upon a time, the cry of every bar-room bore was: "There ought to be a law against it." That changed during the Thatcher-Reagan decade. Suddenly calls for government action were treated with contempt—even in the bar-room. The neo-liberal fashion of "getting the government off the back of the people" gave all forms of regulation a bad name. President Reagan used to mock the traditional Democrats' panic reaction to every political problem as "don't just stand there—do something". He promised that his Administration would have a different slogan: "Don't just do something—stand there."

At the same time, the single-minded materialism of the Thatcher-Reagan era created an illusion that was very helpful to the dismantling of big government. Both voters and politicians were convinced that the power of the State could be defined by one simple measure: how much money it spent and taxed. A government that spent a lot was oppressive, as well as unpleasant for high-rate taxpayers. A government that cut taxes was ipso facto giving its citizens more freedom.

Yet whether it is in the overdue clamour for a total ban on private handguns, or in the far more dubious proposals to introduce a new technology for parents to censor children's television, we are reminded daily that the government's role in society goes far beyond the raising of taxes and spending of public money. And despite all the efforts of neo-liberals to discredit government action, the citizenry (at least in Britain) clings stubbornly to the belief that governments are basically benign.

The question of whether the State is fundamentally benevolent or necessarily corrupt is emerging as the great political divide of the 1990s. Tony Blair's new Labour socialists and Bill Clinton's Democrats, along with most Social and Christian Democrats in Europe, believe in government. They want government to be cheaper, "smarter" or more efficient, but they welcome politically administered collective action and see the State as a force for good. Their new style "socialism", as Mr Blair calls it, acknowledges that the market must dominate in the economic sphere of production and consumption, but insists on reserving a large domain for social action. In this social sphere, politics and government, not money and markets, must hold sway.

Tories and American Republicans, by contrast, believe that politics is inherently venal. Governments and public bodies are always being captured by self-serving politicians, bureaucrats and vested interests. Only competition and the market can keep these corrupting forces at bay. A society that settles everything through the market, and leaves as little as possible to government, will be not only richer but also fairer, they maintain.

Anyone who believes that there is no real difference between the Tories and new Labour—or between Bill Clinton and Bob Dole—should remember these sharply contrasting attitudes to the role of the State. There is scope for enormous differences in the way the country is governed—and in the power and influence of government—even if Labour raises exactly the same taxes as the Conservatives and spends not a penny more.

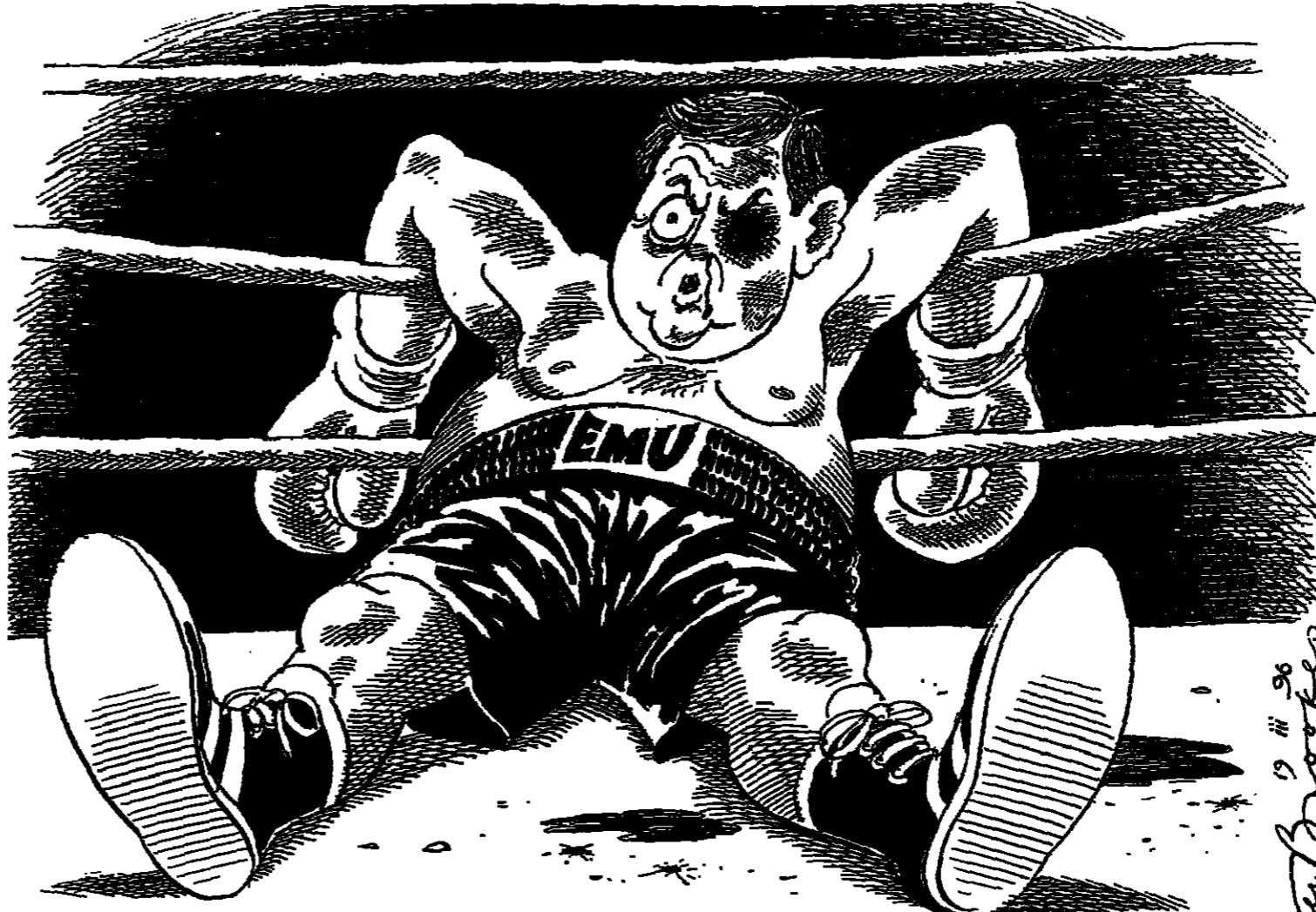
It would cost the Government virtually nothing to ban guns or to limit violence in broadcasting or to change the schools curriculum or to join a European single currency or to devolve the government of Scotland or to arrange a cut in water prices or to give more (or fewer) rights to trade unions or to put Britain on permanent Summer Time. These and a myriad other social, environmental and judicial measures would not have the slightest effect on taxation or public borrowing, yet they could change life in Britain far more than a few pence on income tax.

To deny this is to succumb to the materialist illusion of the 1980s—the idea that the only things that matter in life are the ones that carry a big price tag. Yet this seems to be exactly what many politicians and commentators believe, mesmerised as they are by meaningless statistics such as the ratio of government spending to gross domestic product.

The truth is that the degree of government intrusion in society bears little relation to such figures. The British Government spends 42 per cent of GDP, compared with 33 per cent in America, 39 per cent in Japan and 20 per cent in Hong Kong. But is Britain over-governed compared with them? In Hong Kong, 60 per cent of the population lives in publicly-owned housing. In Japan, the Government has wielded influence over commercial decisions that Nye Bevan could only have dreamt of. In America the regulation of utilities, insurance, environmental pollution, consumer protection and workplace health and safety gives the government sway over one quarter of the economy, on top of the part it directly controls. The European Commission spends less than 2 per cent of Europe's GDP, yet its power over our lives now rivals that of national governments.

At a recent Ditchley seminar on regulation, American businessmen complained that they are far more oppressed by regulators than by tax collectors. But their hopes of deregulation sounded forlorn. In an era when governments have reached the limits of their ability to raise taxes, politicians will increasingly turn to regulation to influence our lives. And why shouldn't they? Governments are elected to do things. President Reagan's joke notwithstanding, and spending money is not the only way to get things done.

Is the State corrupt or benign? That is the great divide



"You do that again and I'll QUIT..."

The voices of children

We owe our five-year-olds respect—but we do not always give it to them

Yes, of course the media must leave Dunblane. If we do not go voluntarily, there is a case for enforcement. Yet, unlike many commentators, from Matthew Parris to Alan Clark, I cannot regret the intensity of the coverage. It genuinely reflected a genuine grief.

I am glad our political leaders represented us in decent unity, glad that the Queen visited (and, incidentally, that the Princess of Wales had the wisdom not to), I am grateful to theologians who struggled publicly towards a response, and also that our need to understand was at least partly met by responsible accounts of Thomas Hamilton. It was not disrespectful either for voices to be raised against the cult of handiwork, notably the voice of the former Chief Constable John Stalker, who says baldly that even within the police force, senior officers automatically distrust any man who volunteers to be armed. Above all, I am glad that the sober, kindly, courageous voices of Dunblane itself have been heard.

But as the nation turns decently away, we have to consider what we can do with our own shock and tears. The shock went deep. The Sunday morning silence gave a glimpse of a Britain we often forget: shops and stations fell quiet, and driving through a Suffolk town, I pulled into the side of the road for 9.30am, but found there was no need. Two lines of cars stood motionless during that minute, engines off, while the traffic lights went green, then red, then green again.

Ambushed by tears, we have tried for days to make sense of the shock. At the heart of it lies the age of the children who were deliberately killed. Unlike incidental victims of war or terrorism, they were chosen: to one twisted mind, they had significance. We have to confront that awful fact, because to the normal mind also their age and where they died has significance. So all I wish to do today is to speak, with joy as well as grief, of the particular qualities of a five-year-old child.

To those who have little to do with children, the distinctions of age may be blurred, but those closer to them know that a child of four or five, starting school, is a profoundly important and beautiful creature. The word "innocent" is overused, but the true, blazing wonder of their condition is something that only parents and teachers know. Nowhere else do you

find that combination of clear vision, considerable reasoning ability and utter innocence. It is an age that learns fast, absorbs deeply, and questions life with a serious awakening moral sense. One of the hardest questions that teachers had to deal with last Thursday from the smallest schoolchildren was, "What had they done wrong? Why was he angry?"

A child rising five stands on the threshold of the wider society: emerging from dependent infancy to take his or her place as an individual in the world. Around the fourth birthday, innocent babyhood ends with the realisation that the world is wide and time is long, that not all news is good, that bad things happen and sometimes it is your fault. Age and death become real. For my own first child, one catalyst was the hurricane of 1987.

new bureaucratic burden fell on him, the head would say "Focus on the children" and dive into the nearest classroom for sheer refreshment. It never failed.

This marvellous moment in life, poised between thoughtless babyhood and the dilemmas that come later, was the moment when the Dunblane children were lost. It is an excellent instinct which made us weep as if for a loss of our own. And as we turn respectfully away, that instinct should bring hope. Everybody has said that parents hugged their own children tighter last week; well, we should now embrace other people's too. Because of what they are and the simple and eternal values they embody, we owe them respect.

We do not always give it. This very week, primary education is once more a source of ill-tempered doctrinaire wrangling, polarised between those who despise the idea of "child-centred" teaching and want them sitting in rows and taught by rote, 40 at a time and cheaply, and those who see their needs differently and argue their corner with equal venom. Sir Malcolm Thornton, chairman of the

Commons Select Committee on Education and husband of a primary head, has been moved to express anger at "simplistic and offensive" attacks on teachers by Chris Woodhead of Ofsted; Mr Woodhead himself launches this week an "MoT test" for teachers, marking them on a seven-point scale with a view to naming incompetents and "rooting them out". There is nothing wrong with improving standards, but the tone and means sometimes used are more suited to a factory inspectorate than to a delicate relationship with flowering human souls.

Again, there has been harsh ecclesiastical criticism of a survey which showed that most parents prefer not to talk of "teaching" right and wrong to children, but of "guiding" them. Yet anybody who deals with young children knows that guiding is what you do: treat them kindly and fairly and help them to pass it on. Small children are not savages unless we make them so: I have known six-year-olds to reject violent films or games spontaneously because they—not we—found them distasteful.

Yet we jostle and ignore them, for all their trust and goodwill. Walk down the road with a four-year-old and commuters will all but step on her; look at the way our cities are planned and you find cars, prestige, consumerism and profit given infinitely more thought than the question of where children can play. We slide ever further into the pursuit of self-fulfilment through serial divorce, and make political capital by attacking the poorest mothers. The professional world derides what America calls the "mommy track" and sniggers at the very idea of a daddy track.

In her novel *The Hearts and Lives of Men*, Fay Weldon deals with parents who believe that their child is dead. She reflects on the unnatural fate of outliving your child, but says "if we are to give proper meaning and honour to their death, and our grief, we must live thereafter properly and well, without wranglings or rancour".

Those lines have gone through my head for days. I hope that Dunblane will now be mentioned less, but I hope too that the shock has sunk so deep that the past week's feelings will, for years to come, colour a thousand debates and decisions, public and private, political and business, in every trade from armaments to entertainment. For the children's sake.

Libby Purves

Doubles all round for Ilie Nastase's tennis partners. The 50-year-old former Wimbledon player is leading rivals by a wide margin in an election for the mayoralty of Bucharest, his home town, which he promises to rebuild as the "Paris of the East".

Foot down
CARNAL NEWS: Philip Kerr, who in January was awarded the Literary Review's Bad Sex Prize for the too-curling descriptions of sex in his novel *Grid Iron*, has fallen vic-

Shawl thing
WILL HER famous blonde bouffant be swathed in the shawl that goes with the shawl kameez? Baroness Thatcher is to visit Pakistan at the end of the week, and those who admire the Iron Lady's sturdy suits are wondering whether, like the Princess of Wales, she will concede to Pakistani cultural convention and don the flowing garments so gracefully worn by Jemima, wife of Imran Khan. Lady Thatcher will be attending an Asian leadership seminar, but her office proves sketchy on details. However, there are great hopes that she might take tea with Jemima, whose father Sir James Goldsmith is a staunch ally of the Baroness.

Great news: the Sex Pistols are back together

Rag trade

THE REGROUPED Sex Pistols are hankering after the very best memories from their past. The middle-aged songsters are planning to recommission their designer of old, Vivienne Westwood, to dress them for their reappearance on stage.

In the group's heyday, West-



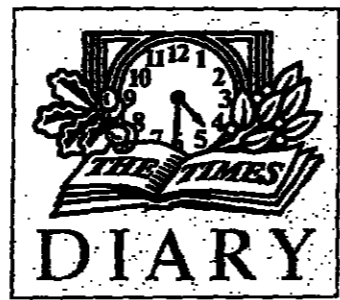
Westwood as was

wood ran a shop called Sex in London's King's Road. She dreamt up a Silver Jubilee T-shirt in 1977 which sported the Queen wearing a safety pin through her nose. And she stepped out with the Pistols manager, Malcolm McLaren.

Nowadays, Vivienne is still considered risqué. But her clothes are not exactly for the "punk" market. "The idea of Vivienne Westwood designing the band's clothes is as perverse as the idea of the Sex Pistols reforming," explains my colleague, the *Times* fashion editor Iain R. Webb. "Her design has moved on far beyond punk into traditional clothes relying on traditional English design. She's designing for the country set, not for the urban outcasts."

Some urbanites would surely balk at her prices, too. But the Pistols' enthusiasm is undimmed. "The look would not be an attempt to get back to punk—it would definitely be Nineties. In any case, they are no longer gangly youths, they've all put on a bit of weight now." Haven't we all?

The incoming president of the Oxford Union, who will take over next term, is starting his pres-



dency with a ticklish debate. The motion is "This House enjoys pornography". Lord Longford will oppose the motion and Marina Baker, Playboy's Playmate of the Year 1987, will propose it. To illustrate her argument she will be giving a slide show which is eagerly awaited by some students.

Can I come in?
A PEACE protester on the run from prison for four months has tried to hand himself in to the authorities and been refused—because he doesn't have the correct paperwork.

Roger Franklin was sentenced to 28 days in Gloucester jail for refusing to pay £600 tax on his savings, in protest at government spending on nuclear weapons. He finally decided to hand him-

self in the other day, but was turned away. "We have to see the actual warrant," says one of the jailers. "Prisoners have to be brought in by an officer of the court."

Franklin plans to negotiate his incarceration. "I am not in a great hurry, but I would like to get it over with, so perhaps I will write to the court," he says. He explains that he evaded his captors for so long by refusing to answer the door to bailiffs. On other occasions he was at pottery classes.

Shawl thing

WILL HER famous blonde bouffant be swathed in the shawl that goes with the shawl kameez? Baroness Thatcher is to visit Pakistan at the end of the week, and those who admire the Iron Lady's sturdy suits are wondering whether, like the Princess of Wales, she will concede to Pakistani cultural convention and don the flowing garments so gracefully worn by Jemima, wife of Imran Khan. Lady Thatcher will be attending an Asian leadership seminar, but her office proves sketchy on details. However, there are great hopes that she might take tea with Jemima, whose father Sir James Goldsmith is a staunch ally of the Baroness.

Time for a world lottery

Simon Broadbent suggests a new way to finance the UN

The United Nations is running out of money. Some members fail to pay their contributions; several dispute what their contributions should be. The immediate consequence is that the countries which provide troops for peacekeeping (some of them poor ones) are paid late or not at all. Before long the supply of such troops will dry up. It is time to ask whether a UN lottery could save the day.

The sums involved are surprisingly small. The UN's regular budget is \$1.2 billion a year—half that of the Metropolitan Police—and peacekeeping costs a further \$3.5 billion. In total this is about 0.025 per cent of world income—scarcely a significant rate of international taxation when compared with national taxes of 20-40 per cent, such as the European Union's 1-2 per cent.

These costs are shared among member countries by a formula of byzantine complexity, which is supposed to reflect their capacity to pay. Historically poorer countries are given a large discount. All but 24 countries get a further discount on peacekeeping costs at the expense of four of the five permanent members of the Security Council.

Many countries pay as little as one US cent to the UN each year—a lot less than some spend on their New York missions. The richest pay more than \$7 a head, and a few micro-states even more. Several countries' contributions have not risen in line with their growing prosperity. Singapore and Israel, for example, pay about \$1 a head, despite higher income per head than Ireland and New Zealand, which pay \$3 a head. Other countries pay heavily for past claims of economic strength by their communist rulers.

The United States' share is much less than Europe's: both pay about \$5 a head. Yet Americans have a vastly inflated idea of the burden they bear. That is one reason why the American Congress refuses to authorise the funds which it is committed by treaty to provide; instead it seeks a reduction in its already modest contribution.

Recently, the EU has put forward proposals to revise the scale of contributions to reflect current capacity to pay, but America's political climate and bickering elsewhere do not augur well. Are there any other options? Voluntary contributions have been suggested. So has a levy on international air travel; but it is hard to see 185 ministers of finance signing up for that. Improbable as these approaches may be, a combination of the two might just offer a solution: a UN lottery.

An international lottery, similar to national lotteries but run for the UN, would give the UN resources without undermining national tax revenues; it would be voluntary, and it could get America off a humiliating book by removing the annual wrangle over funds from Congress.

Lotteries raise over \$60 billion a year worldwide. The UK's National Lottery has been a runaway fundraising success. A UN lottery would have far greater reach, would be able to offer much larger and more numerous prizes than national lotteries, and could raise all the funds needed at little cost to each participant. Their potential number in rich countries alone would be over 400 million.

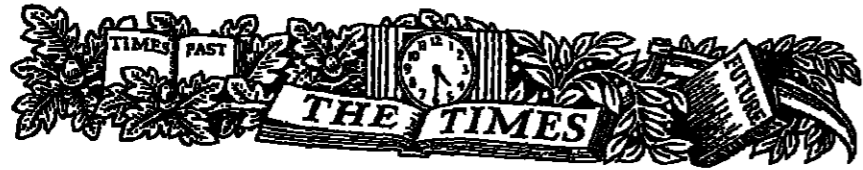
Operating a lottery in both very rich and very poor countries might sound impossible. One approach would be to franchise separate lotteries in different states. But this would sacrifice the advantages of scale. A truly international lottery might take place once or twice a year, selling relatively large denomination tickets and offering prizes of \$1 million and upwards. The odds against winning would be in thousands rather than millions. Tickets could, however, be subdivided into units which might vary from country to country and offer additional low-value instant prizes. Full tickets could be bought by sufficiently rich individuals and by syndicates.

Of course member countries would have to co-operate by allowing the lottery to function within their borders. In America it would need the acquiescence of individual states. To provide an incentive for this co-operation, the revenue raised in each country could be credited, partly or wholly, against the nation's assessed contributions. In the case of poor countries, there could be an upper limit on the amount of money taken out of the country, without ruling out the possibility of a profit through a big win.

If a country had moral or practical objections to the lottery, it could fall back on simply paying its assessed contribution. And these contributions might fall as the lottery began to generate a surplus. Some may object that it would be undignified for the UN's lofty purposes to be pursued through a lottery. But the UN's finances are a lottery at present, and it is scarcely dignified to see its members wrangling over what are, for nearly all of them, trivial sums. Far better to get down to an honest negotiation which gives the UN the resources it needs.

The author is a visiting fellow at the National Institute of Economic and Social Research.

P-H-S



THE TAIWAN TRUTH

Chinese arrogance against American interest

China's intimidation of Taiwan breaches the Law of the Sea, violates three separate Chinese agreements with the United States to pursue its "one China" policy of reunification by peaceful means alone and amounts, under the American Taiwan Relations Act of 1979, to "a threat to the peace and security of the Western Pacific area". Irrespective of Taiwan's status, China's claim that this is an internal Chinese matter is dangerous nonsense and Boutros Boutros Ghali, by parroting it, demonstrates his unfitness for a second term as UN Secretary-General.

The superficial ground for China's claim is that Taiwan, which is not in law an independent state, itself subscribes officially to the goal of reunification. That by no means justifies China's partial blockade of the island in a deliberate attempt to damage its thriving economy, let alone its blatant effort to interfere in Taiwan's first truly democratic presidential election this Saturday.

Militarily, China has so far followed the precepts of the two grand strategists still revered in Peking: Mao Tse-tung and Sun-tsu, the 4th-century BC commander whose tactics were successfully used by the People's Liberation Army against both Japanese and Nationalist forces. Sun-tsu was an ardent proponent of psychological warfare to achieve political ends without military losses. But this time China's leaders, as paranoid about Taiwan's enthusiastic discovery of democratic politics as they are about Hong Kong's modest political reforms, have totally misjudged their target.

The most dangerous phase will come when the election results are counted and China finds that far from undermining the popularity of President Lee Teng-hui, its bullying has, as seems likely, enhanced the majority by which he wins a second term. In terms of international diplomacy, China has scored another own goal by drawing attention to the contrast between its own domestic repression and Taiwan's freedoms.

For nearly half a century, Taiwan has had all the attributes of statehood — a Government in effective control of its territory which conducts an independent, if prudent, foreign

policy. Now, it will have more friends. Meanwhile China has given Asian and Western governments, not to mention the people of Hong Kong, further proof that it cannot be relied upon, even in its own enlightened self-interest, to respect either international law or agreements to which it has voluntarily bound itself.

The risk is that China, whose "war party" has been humiliated in the middle of its own political succession battle, will seek symbolic satisfaction by seizing one of the tiny islands just off the Chinese coast held by the Taiwan Government. It did so in 1955, taking the Tachen islands, north of Taiwan. Alternatively, China could illegally declare the Taiwan Strait closed and blockade Taiwan itself, crippling its economy by depriving it of vital oil and food imports and cutting its exports.

China's Asian neighbours, whose security would be directly damaged by any disruption to freedom of navigation in the region's critical sea-lanes, have the strongest reasons to speak out. Their near-silence puts America again on the map as reluctant but necessary policeman. Initially hesitant, Washington is now playing its hand well, deploying the largest naval force seen in Asia since the Vietnam War. It is well positioned to keep the Taiwan Strait open; it should not hesitate to do so.

Better still, before China makes any further moves President Clinton could bring strategic clarity to the long-held American doctrine of "strategic ambiguity" about Taiwan. The Taiwan Relations Act commits the US to help Taiwan defend itself; it needs better missile defences, and it should have them now. The Act describes "any effort to determine the future of Taiwan by other than peaceful means, including boycotts or embargoes" as a matter of "grave concern to the United States". Mr Clinton should endorse Winston Lord's statement about what "grave concern" means: such behaviour should be construed as a direct attack on US "national interests". China is mistaken in assuming that its actions are risk-free. Misled by American ambiguity, it made that mistake once before: it led to the Korean War.

CHIP IN THE BOX

Can technology shield young viewers from television gore?

After several decades in which film and television drama-makers have leapfrogged each other in the levels of violence they have portrayed, the public is saying "Enough". In America and Britain, a new consensus is emerging. Violence on television and in films is degrading. But is the "V-chip" the answer to the gore that so many so detest?

Last month in America, Congress passed legislation compelling all TV manufacturers to install these chips in new sets. Virginia Bottomley, National Heritage Secretary, is considering following suit. Since the chip costs only 60p to install, the obligation is not onerous. Once in place, the chip recognises an electronic call sign attached to programmes with high levels of violence or explicit sex. If parents wish, they can then scramble all such programmes.

This sounds like the perfect solution to the problem of children watching unsuitable fare. It seems to deal with the difficulty of monitoring what children see on their own television sets, and works even when the parents are out. Best of all, it imposes a blanket ban, relieving parents of the need to argue their case against each individual programme of which they disapprove.

On closer examination, however, the V-chip has flaws. First, it will take at least a generation to have much effect. The average life of a television is 20 years, and the oldest sets usually find their way to children's bedrooms. Secondly, as experience with satellite blocking systems has already shown, children tend to be more technologically adept than their parents and are ingenious at unscrambling transmissions.

Meanwhile, the regulatory body monitoring the programmes will have a mammoth task. In America, for every 700 films released each year, there are more than 700,000 hours of television on an average cable system. Europe is moving in that direction. How would censors decide whether a production of *Titus Andronicus* was more violent than an episode of *Cracker*, or a documentary on Rwanda?

Even supposing practical problems could be overcome, the V-chip might suffer from the law of unintended consequences. Those children most in need of protection would be those least likely to receive it. Well-balanced children could find their viewing restricted to anodyne quiz shows, while delinquents watched anything they liked. Broadcasters, sheltering behind the V-chip, might then be tempted to put out ever more shocking programmes on the ground that only adults need watch them.

There lies the rub. Violence corrupts not just children, but parents too. The constant fare of shooting, murder, brawls and rape that is pumped out on prime-time TV these days makes violence look like a part of everyday life. If you believe the broadcasters, the only glamorous profession to be in, apart from crime, is one of the emergency services. This is not "real life" — it is a thousand miles away from the life most people lead. Film-makers and broadcasters should look to their own consciences and broaden their imagination. Blood is not the only component of the human body, nor testosterone the only driving force. Humans possess also a brain and a heart.

VICTORY MOST SWEET

But when will we next see the Sri Lankans in England?

Cricket-lovers in this country, ill-served by their own tattered side, are entitled to rejoice today in Sri Lanka's World Cup victory. If their energetic triumph over Australia was the sweeter for its overturning of pre-tournament predictions, it was also profoundly romantic. Contriving somehow to be both boyish and gentlemanly, Arjuna Ranatunga's men played a skilled and smiling game — with a strength of resolve and a frankness of shot-making that no adversary was able to match.

Yet cricket-lovers in this country have good reason also to be hopping mad: not with Michael Atherton's vanquished journeyman of course, for they did their best, poor souls; nor even with Ray Illingworth, although they will not be milling to buy him pints of ale at the Slog and Duck in Pudsey. Popular anger should be directed, instead, at the Test and County Cricket Board (TCCB) for its conceit, its purlblindness and its attitude to Sri Lankan cricket.

The TCCB runs Test cricket in this country, deciding which sides come here to play, when they come and how often. Since their elevation to full Test match status — in February 1982, when Keith Fletcher's team played a side captained by Bandula Warnapura in Colombo — Sri Lanka has toured England only three times, and for a mere single Test on each occasion. The last time was in 1991, six years ago, and the next

will not be until 1998, when the deft Sri Lankans have been pencilled in for yet another single Test match.

The cricket authorities in Colombo have pleaded often with the TCCB: let us have a full tour, allow us at least a three-Test series, play us more often than you do. But the men at Lord's have responded always with withering disdain: Sri Lanka, they have concluded, are just not good enough for an extended tour of the land where cricket was invented. In the meantime, they have enjoyed proper tours of India, Pakistan, New Zealand and Australia, "growing up" each time as cricketers and putting their signature clearly on the modern game.

Sri Lanka is now the one-day game's world champion; and Lord's had better set aside its disdain for both Sri Lanka and the one-day game. It should not be beyond the abilities of even the TCCB to find a way of accommodating the island cricketers somewhere in the English calendar.

Can they not be invited to play here after — or during — next year's Ashes series? Can they not be offered more Tests in 1998? That is the year the South Africans tour: and what a dreary prospect they offer, when compared with the magical world champions. But let us not presume that Sri Lanka will jump at an invitation to tour England. The TCCB had better bone up on the Sinhalese (and Tamil) for "don't call us, we'll call you".

Dunblane places a spotlight on media

From Professor Sir Miles Irving

Sir, The appalling events of last Wednesday have been compounded by the depressingly predictable behaviour of a section of the Sunday press. With their lurid headlines about the personal life of the killer and innuendos about the competence of the authorities responsible for gun control they have sought to capitalise on the tragedy and increase their sales. Their hope must be that any inquiry will blame the mental state of the perpetrator and the incompetence of the police, thus absolving the rest of society, and by implication the media, from any responsibility for last week's occurrences.

One wonders whether at any time the editors and owners of these papers, together with those responsible for the production of films and television, pause to think whether the ills of our society are related to their activities. The purveying of pornography, the attacks on order, the family, discipline and excellence, combined with the creation of a culture of tolerance to violence, could account for an environment which allowed a disordered man like Hamilton to thrive.

Whenever such suggestions are advanced rational discussion is impossible because of the control over the debate exerted by partisan media. In recent years the medical profession has moved into an era of "evidence-based" care where decisions about all aspects of practice are increasingly subject to independent systematic reviewing and scientific analysis of the published evidence.

The time has now surely come when the evidence on the effects upon society of the activities of the media should be so reviewed and, if shown to be harmful, used for moral if not legislative pressure on those responsible. We owe the children and parents of Dunblane nothing less.

Yours sincerely,
MILES IRVING
(Professor of Surgery),
University of Manchester,
Department of Surgery,
Clinical Sciences Building,
Hope Hospital,
Salford, Greater Manchester,
M13 9PL.

Proposed memorial

From Miss Imogen Stubbs

Sir, Much has been written recently about a perception that National Lottery money is awarded with insufficient public input about its destination, with metropolitan bias depriving the regions and with the "good cause" concept inadequately represented.

A proposal: that the Heritage Memorial Fund, the Sports Council, the Arts Council and the Millennium Commission all forgo the funds they disburse from the lottery for one week. Their grand total of that week's funds should be earmarked for a Dunblane project — possibly a young people's sports and cultural centre, or a children's hospital, or a holiday facility for needy or abused children — to memorialise the innocent victims of last week's unimaginable destruction in a positive and life-affirming way.

Yours faithfully,
IMOGEN STUBBS,
c/o ICM,
76 Oxford Street, W1,
March 17.

English syllabus

From the Head of English at the Oratory School

Sir, The post-Dearing GCSE is indeed marginalising Shakespeare (Education, March 15). In most of the examining groups' English Literature syllabuses, Shakespeare has been relegated to coursework — he cannot or need not be studied for the actual exam.

This means that the pupils only have to produce one piece of written work on Shakespeare. There's no need to go on studying the play and getting to know it really well because it won't be in the exam.

There are further problems. The syllabuses approved by the School Curriculum and Assessment Authority requires six books to be studied (up from three or four previously), which will make it impossible to do them in detail from sheer lack of time.

They also insist on coursework assignments to test "appreciation of social and historical influences and cultural contexts" and so on. Absurdly pretentious tasks are suggested, such as "a consideration of the first-person narrative in pre-twentieth century literature" (Southern Examining Group syllabus). This would make a fascinating doctoral thesis, but as a 16-year-old, it would be so superficial as to be worthless.

The new English and English Literature GCSEs have abandoned rigour for superficiality dressed up in fashionable "lit crit" jargon.

Yours faithfully,
ANDREW NASH,
Head of English,
The Oratory School,
Woodcote,
Reading, Berkshire,
March 15.

Letters for publication should carry contact telephone numbers. We regret that we cannot accept letters by telephone but they may be sent by fax to 0171-782 5046.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Tuning into the right age on Radio 1

From Mr Jim Whiteford

Sir, Status Quo complain about withdrawal of national radio support from Radio 1 (report, March 1) but how many other entertainers have enjoyed such an untroubled run of support from the media?

Is it not time for a change? I personally find their blue denim has faded dramatically since their early hits in 1968. That was when our hearts were lighter and our hair darker.

Does it not make more sense for the Quo to target the likes of TV audiences on the Des O'Connor Show (I caught that recently I'm afraid) and leave the jocks at 1 FM to "large it" with their big beat dance music and Brit pop of the moment.

I must admit to wallowing in some Sixties nostalgia over on Radio 2, joining the wily presenters from three nations in the morning — Sarah Kennedy, ably restoring the early morning humour that grew with Ray Moore in the Eighties, Wogan and Ken Bruce.

Here I have heard gems by Nanci Griffith, Neil Young, Sinatra, Ella, Buddy Holly and the Beatles side by side with Sondheim — in short, a melodic pop music policy covering 40 years, and again excluding Status Quo.

It may be that those drumming guitar chords are now just too strident for the Nineties marketplace. Just as Radio 1 is having to rethink its own approach to survive after nearly three decades, the Quo may also have to change sound or direction — or both.

Yours etc,
JIM WHITEFORD,
56 Bathurst Drive, Ayr,
March 15.

From Mr Guy Napier

Sir, Your leading article ("Stay cool", March 1), which backed Radio 1's de-

cision to effectively "blackball" certain popular songs, disregards the wishes of the majority.

Radio 1 is first and foremost one of a very small number of national radio stations and as such should, in my view, attempt to appeal to the widest possible audience. This audience must not be subjected to records which interpret anything but their own choice. That choice is neatly categorised through the Top 20 issued every week and this should form the focus of the station, rather than be ignored because it is regarded by a highly vocal minority as old-fashioned.

The fact that Radio 1 is one of only a few national stations means it has a significant influence on its audience. This influence should be used selectively and not, as it is currently, as a bludgeon. John Peel successfully provided this influence for a considerable period of time without in any way dictating to the general populace. There is nothing wrong with a winning formula, no matter how old.

Yours faithfully,
G. T. NAPIER,
62 Criffell Avenue, SW2,
March 12.

From Mr Anthony J. Morris

Sir, Radio 1 cannot play every new record that companies release. However, there can be no rule to predetermine that records by newer artists are more popular than new recordings by established artists. Who can tell what is popular until the public are given the opportunity of listening and judging for themselves?

Yours truly,
A. J. MORRIS,
Albany House,
Foyle Hill, Shaftesbury, Dorset,
March 13.

Implications of new sentencing laws

From Mr D. P. Marchessini

Sir, I would say to your correspondents today on the subject of the new sentencing laws proposed by the Home Secretary, that the purpose of sentencing laws is not to "rehabilitate" offenders, but to protect society from violent and dangerous men.

The second important point of sentencing laws is to deter offenders in the future. In this connection it is interesting to compare the sentencing laws with those within the United States which make a life sentence mandatory for anyone convicted of three felonies. Not surprisingly, the number of people committing three felonies fell very sharply after the legislation was passed.

It is also difficult to imagine anything more trivial than the oft-made suggestion that the new laws will deter defendants from pleading guilty. Of course they will, but as long as they are convicted their pleas are quite irrelevant.

Finally, we are threatened with the prospect of "overcrowded prisons". The obvious answer to this is to build more prisons. This simple remedy does not, however, seem to commend itself to your correspondents.

Yours faithfully,
D. P. MARCHESSINI,
Kingsbury House,
15/17 King Street, St James's, SW1,
March 12.

From the General Secretary of the Prison Governors Association

Sir, In the arguments between the Lord Chief Justice and the Home Secretary there appears to be only one area of agreement. This is that time served should be much closer to the sentence passed.

No Smoking Day

From Lady Hillhouse, Chair, No Smoking Day 1996

Sir, The debate on the No Smoking Day report into children helping parents to stop smoking (Nigel Lawson, "No parental blackmail day", March 13; letters, March 14) clearly needs informed intervention and clarification.

Neither in the report (details, March 12) nor in the accompanying children's information sheet do we suggest that any form of parental blackmail should be used. No Smoking Day urges children to support, help and encourage their parents when they are stopping smoking and

stresses that blackmail and nagging will not work.

Mr Allen Carr's letter says: "The reason that the NHS's initiative is misguided is that it won't work." The research shows that "child power" does work and that a significant proportion of parents questioned said that fears for their children's health was a major factor in their giving up.

No Smoking Day is not state-run but an independent charity, made up of health promotion agencies, charities and medical bodies.

I remain, Sir, your faithful servant,
ALISON HILLHOUSE,
Chair, No Smoking Day 1996,
19 Regent Terrace, Edinburgh,
March 14.

Yours sincerely,
DAVID RODDAN,
General Secretary,
Prison Governors Association,
409 Horseferry House,
Dean Ryle Street, SW1,
March 14.

Yours sincerely,
EVEN CAMERON,
President,
Country Landowners Association,
16 Belgrave Square, SW1,
March 18.

Genocide in Iraq shames the West

From Air Marshal Sir John Curtis

Sir, The Western democracies should be heartily ashamed of themselves that they have stood back and allowed Saddam Hussein to destroy so many of the people of Iraq.

To highlight just one area, Saddam Hussein has decimated the Marsh Arab and has drained 95 per cent of the ancient marshes of southern Iraq where people have lived for ten thousand years. He has done this whilst the West has spent time and energy in searching for chemical and other weapons of mass destruction: a laudable task in itself, but not at the expense of ignoring the genocide of an ancient people and the total destruction of a marvellous and unique habitat.

In this country our "protesters" waste their energies in trying to stop the building of bypasses, in campaigning against "cruel" sports or the export of live animals, whilst totally ignoring the destruction of a whole race of people in Iraq.

It is shameful enough that our citizens do not think this is a cause worthy of their efforts. It is far, far worse that government and the United Nations ignore the suffering of the peoples of Iraq. Could one of the reasons be that they are ashamed that they halted the Gulf War before Saddam was overthrown?

Now is the time to put things right. Let us listen to Emma Nicholson, MP, and her Iraqi friends and take positive steps to put things right.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN CURTISS,
The Association of Pathfinders,
Europa House,
13-17 Ironmonger Row, ECI,
March 18.

Rural businesses

From the President of the Country Landowners Association

Sir, Representing as it does many small businesses in rural areas, this association has been pressing government to recognise their special needs. We are delighted therefore to hear of Mr Major's plan to curb bureaucracy, streamline taxation and abolish capital gains and inheritance tax (letters, March 16). This will be a real boost to rural businesses and help to create more jobs in the countryside.

On the matter of late payment of bills, however, and the Prime Minister's intention to "manage by embarrassment", we trust this will also apply to government departments.

Late payments to farmers, for example, often involve them in extending overdrafts, with the knock-on effect of bank interest. This can make or break a small business and is particularly relevant when it constitutes a large proportion of the turnover, such as with livestock farmers in disadvantaged areas.

A most positive help that Mr Major could give rural businesses is to ensure that government departments speed up their procedures, and that where there is delay, interest is payable. Where this measure has been applied, such as with the Inland Revenue, payments have been measurably quicker.

Yours sincerely,
EVEN CAMERON,
President,
Country Landowners Association,
16 Belgrave Square, SW1,
March 18.

Canada geese

From Ms Stephanie Baxter

Sir, Your leading article, "The pigeon pieman cometh" (March 9), claims that Canada geese are "destroying our parks" and jocosely deplores any sentimentality towards such birds.

Many of us feel there is something wrong in encouraging more and more Canada geese to our parks by unchecked overfeeding, and then culling a large proportion because of the resultant mess they make.

There are humane ways of controlling numbers such as habitat management and egg substitution. Killing should not be an option in a civilised society.

Yours faithfully,
S. BAXTER,
(Chairperson),
Canada Goose Conservation Society,
PO Box 6691, London E17 7RS,
March 15.

The old enemy

From Captain J. E. H. Vigne, RA

Sir, The letters of Major Francis Beckford Ward, Royal Artillery, from the Crimean War (reports, March 7, 15; letter, March 13), were of great interest to me, currently serving in Bosnia with 19/5 Battery Royal Artillery. It was comforting to hear that some traditions have not changed over the years.

Two nights ago, one of my colleagues from The Queen's Royal Hussars was awoken at 0300 by a large rat, subsequently named Kevin, sharing his camp-bed. In the finest macho style of the modern Army, none of us in the tent slept a wink for the rest of the night.

Yours etc,
J. E. H. VIGNE,
19/5 Battery RA,
Op Resolve, BFPO 538,
March 10.

unnecessary suffering being caused to children, she was tireless in pursuing ministers, judges and everyone who might help. Her friends will not have recognised the description of her as a person "in retirement at her Oxford home" in your otherwise informative obituary.

Lucy Faithfull was a wonderful woman for whom nothing was too much trouble, whether in seeking to improve the lot of children, supporting the many independent charitable agencies of which she was a leader, or caring for her many and devoted friends. She was widely respected as a challenging figure with an entirely independent mind. She will be deeply missed.

Yours faithfully,
NIGEL FRICKER,
Sheffield County Court,
The Law Courts,
West Bar, Sheffield, South Yorkshire,
March 14.

Baroness Faithfull

From His Honour Judge Nigel Fricker, QC

Sir, On February 5 Baroness Faithfull (obituary, March 14) made a powerful speech in the House of Lords, when moving an amendment to the Criminal Procedure and Investigations Bill.

She sought to introduce a scheme for the evidence of an abused child to be recorded entirely on a video at the earliest practicable stage, including cross-examination on behalf of the person accused of abuse. The video would become the evidence heard and seen by the jury at the trial. Having given evidence upon the video, the child would then be able to receive therapy, instead of having to wait for therapy until having been cross-examined at the trial.

To the end of her life, Lucy Faithfull pursued with unrelenting vigour the interests of children. When she saw

OBITUARIES

ODYSSEUS ELYTIS

Odysseus Elytis, Greek poet and winner of the 1979 Nobel Prize for Literature, died in Athens yesterday aged 84. He was born in Heraklion, Crete, on November 2, 1911.

AT THE time of his death the leading poet of a nation whose contribution to literature in modern times has been out of all proportion to its small population, Odysseus Elytis is celebrated above all for the epic *To Axion Esti* (Worthy It Is). A long work, written seemingly in a spirit of continuous ecstasy, it draws on the Byzantine Mass (from which it takes its title) and culls its inspiration from sources as varied as the biblical story of the Creation and the history of modern Greece.

Greece's wartime sufferings at the hands of successive invaders feature largely in these poetic meditations. Elytis had been closely involved in his country's travails as a soldier fighting successively against the Italians and the Germans on the Albanian front. The subsequent Nazi occupation of Greece deeply affected him. His arbitrary cruelties, and his imposition of a northern and mechanistic tyranny on the Aegean mentality of the Greeks, profoundly dismayed him. Nazi barbarity bred in him a determination to defend his inner freedom against all assaults; to preserve what the novelist Edith Wharton has called "a republic of the spirit".

Elytis's poems were popular in Greece in a manner which is almost inconceivable in any other European country. But Greece is a culture in which the craft of verse-writing has not been marginalised, as it has been almost everywhere else - as wartime elegies, composed by village poets to crushed RAF airmen, attest. Set to music by the popular composer Mikis Theodorakis, his verses might often find themselves being raucously intoned on warm ouzo-fuelled nights in seaside tavernas. In the wider world Elytis's genius was acknowledged by the award of the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1979.

Although Odysseus Alpeoudis (Elytis was the *nom de plume* he chose to use in place of his family name) was born in Crete, his father, a well-known industrialist, came from Mytilene on the island of Lesbos, birthplace of Sappho and a place that above all others Elytis was to regard as his own ancestral land. Although in 1914 the family - there were six children - moved to Athens, his childhood was punctuated



by long summer visits to the islands of the Aegean, to Spetses, Tinos, Mykonos, Santorini, Syra, Chios and, of course, Crete and Lesbos.

His Aegean baptism was thus celebrated at an early stage in his life, and it is by no means accidental that he later came to regard the Aegean as the birthplace and cradle of Hellenism, or that it occupies such a central place in his own poetry. He was first and foremost the poet of the Aegean.

Elytis entered the School of Law at the University of Athens in 1930, but he did not take his degree. He had already in the 1930s by George Katsimbalis; it also published the works of such rising poets as George Seferis, D. I. Antoniou, Nikos Gatsos and others. These poems formed Elytis's first collection of poetry, *Orientalism*, published in 1939, on the eve of the Italian and subsequent German invasion of Greece.

In the war that followed, Elytis

term, he recognised in Surrealism a great liberating force, one that made it possible for him to escape from, as he put it, "the tradition of rationalism that lay so heavily on the western world" and to "regard Greek reality without the prejudices that have reigned since the Renaissance".

It was in the enthusiasm generated by this liberation and by his discovery of a genuinely Greek scene that he wrote his first mature poems, published in *Ta Nea Grammata* (New Letters), the literary review edited in the 1930s by George Katsimbalis; it also published the works of such rising poets as George Seferis, D. I. Antoniou, Nikos Gatsos and others. These poems formed Elytis's first collection of poetry, *Orientalism*, published in 1939, on the eve of the Italian and subsequent German invasion of Greece.

In the war that followed, Elytis

served as a second lieutenant on the Albanian front. It was on the basis of his experiences in this campaign that he wrote his long *Heroic and Elegiac Song for the Last Second Lieutenant of the Albanian Campaign*, published in 1945. *Kindness in the Wolfpaws* was published a year later. Subsequently these experiences, together with those of the civil war in Greece, as well as a profound ten-year meditation on his own relationship with the spiritual and cultural heritage of the modern Greek world and on the structural possibilities of the Greek language, were to find expression in *To Axion Esti*, published in 1959. It won him the National Prize in Poetry in 1960.

Many other collections of poems followed. There was also the publication of his collected prose works, *Open Book*, and of some of his essays. The pictorial arts were a major interest throughout his life, and he often said that had he not been a poet he would have been a painter. In 1979 - 16 years after his friend and fellow-poet, George Seferis - he was awarded the world's premier literary prize for, in the citation of the Nobel committee, "poetry which, against the background of the Greek tradition, depicts with a sensuous force and an intellectual clarity modern man's struggle for freedom and creativeness".

Elytis travelled widely, especially in the years after the Second World War. France was his second home, but he also visited other European countries, Russia and America.

In spite of his intense love for Greece, Elytis himself insisted that he was not a patriotic poet. Nor did he regard himself as a nature poet. He saw his task as that of transposing the visible images offered to him by the Greek world to the level of the imagination, where they could function as a world in their own right, reminding man of a possible perfection, purity and innocence that a merely realistic standpoint must always exclude. Because of this he stood somewhat apart from most contemporary trends in literature, belonging to a tradition that in its Greek form includes such poets as Solomos and Sikelianos, and may be traced back to the art of Byzantium and the Near East.

This is not to say that Elytis's mythic vision ignores the forces of tragedy and evil. But it penetrates beyond them. His poetry is one more testimony of the inexhaustible bounty of the Hellenic spirit. He never married.

HENRY USBORNE

Henry Osborne, Labour MP for Acocks Green, Birmingham, 1945-50, and for Yardley, Birmingham, 1950-59, died on March 16 aged 87. He was born on January 16, 1909.



HENRY USBORNE, elected to the Commons in the Attlee landslide of 1945, announced in his election address that he was an idealist and unashamed of it. This summed up his approach to politics. He was a tireless worker for the concept of world government and was devoted to a number of other causes, ranging from outright pacifism - a belief which he modified as the Second World War progressed - to the revolutionary, 40-letter alphabet sponsored by George Bernard Shaw.

His father, Charles Frederick Osborne, was a member of the Indian Civil Service during its great days. Henry Charles Osborne was sent home to school at Bradford and then on to Cambridge where, as an undergraduate at Corpus, he gained an honours degree in the Natural Sciences Tripos. On coming down from university he became an oil combustion engineer and founded his own company at Droitwich. He joined the Labour Party in the 1930s and was active in Federal Union, a federalist organisation which flourished towards the end of the decade and during the war.

Osborne never expected to become an MP. He accepted a wartime nomination as a prospective candidate but described himself as a paper candidate, chosen to make up the numbers at a general election. But the seat for which he was nominated, Acocks Green in Birmingham, was affected by population changes and, to his astonishment, he centred home with a majority of 4,154. In the House his maiden speech referred, characteristically, to world government and in 1946, while still a relatively new Member, he founded a Parliamentary Group for World Govern-

ment. (This was later, after he had ceased to be Prime Minister, to receive active encouragement from Clement Attlee.)

Boundary changes sent Osborne in 1950 to another Birmingham seat, Yardley, which he captured comfortably by nearly 4,000. He held on, though with reduced majorities, at the next two elections in 1951 and 1955. In 1959, though, Macmillan's "You never had it so good" campaign was too much for him and he was defeated by 1,385 votes.

Osborne, unlike some former MPs, did not let the loss of his seat destroy his zest and he proceeded to lead a full life devoted to industry, his special causes and his family. He remained chairman of the firm he had founded and became a Justice of the Peace in his home town of Evesham. Although it might have been expected that his profound internationalism would have made him a supporter of the European Union, he was distinctly lukewarm about it. He believed that a combination of

national states, holding on to their sovereignty and their national armies, could never be a proper substitute for world government. His most dramatic act after leaving the Commons was to leave his party. In 1962, disapproving of what he described as "double talk and double think" during the rows between Gaitskell and his opponents, he resigned from Labour and joined the Liberals, suggesting that more of his former colleagues should summon up the courage to join Jo Grimond in order to help to relieve the country of the Conservatives. There was the possibility that he would be nominated as Liberal candidate for Cheltenham but he announced that wild horses would not drag him into another parliamentary contest. One of his major interests in retirement was marriage guidance. He himself had married Pamela Watson in 1936 and she survives him with two sons and two daughters.

HELEN CHADWICK

Helen Chadwick, artist, died of a heart attack on March 15 aged 42. She was born on May 18, 1953.

WITH ribald insolence, Helen Chadwick worked to challenge, even outrage, the conventional mores of gentility. She used such unsettling subjects as defecation and decay,

urine and infection, to explore the human condition as it balances on a dissolving line between the cerebral and the sensuous, between glaucous idealisation and scatological reality.

Chadwick was one of the first British artists to develop what has now become an almost obsessional preoccupa-

tion with the human body as a means of exploring identity. She revelled in the fusion of unconventional materials. In *Loop My Loop*, the glaucous coils of a pig's intestine intertwine with golden curls of human hair. In *Viral Landscapes* pictures of body cells are enlarged and smeared over epic photographs of the

wild Pembrokeshire coast. Chadwick seemed to find a peculiar fascination in waste materials. One of her best-known pieces was *Piss Flowers* (1994), a series of 12 bronzes cast from the cavities made in the snow where she and her male partner had urinated. She also earned notoriety with her coprological *Cacao* (1994),

a lazily viscous chocolate fountain which evinced queasily contrasting emotions of seduction and revulsion.

Yet though critics wallowed in arsepeak to describe her work - *Private Eye* once devoted the whole of "Pseudos Corner" to the psychobabble aroused by one of her shows - she herself was wryly pragmatic. All she was saying, she once explained, was: "Have a look at this. What do you feel? What do you think? If people go 'oooh', that's it."

Although exhibited all over the world and twice nominated for the Turner Prize, Chadwick was unpretentious, sometimes almost ruthless in her outlook. With distinctive Cleopatra haircut and heavily Kohl-rimmed eyes she had an impish demeanour and a puckish sense of humour which jabbed at the solemnities of the art world. Yet she was meticulously precise, her work always immaculately finished.

Helen Chadwick was brought up in a semi-detached house in Croydon, the daughter of an Albanian mother and English father. She described herself as a mongrel - a hybrid of Greek hedonism and turgid British control.

As a six-year-old she contracted scarlet fever and was confined to the isolation of the sick room for several weeks. It was this experience which, she thought, first alerted her to the strange juxtapositions of the everyday world. Luxuriating in her parents' big pink bed, sucking pink penicillin tablets, she whiled away the hours just looking at things, making arrangements of whatever shapes and ideas flowed through her head. When she looked she found that she felt



good. "Most of my works of art," she later said, "crystallise in that reverie between sleep and wakefulness, when you idle into neutral and follow funny little chains of thought." Chadwick was educated at Croydon High School. She intended to be an archaeologist so that she could dig things up and draw them. But, although her classmates sighed enviously over her talent for painting, she failed her art O level. Maybe it was this, firing a characteristic rebelliousness, that led her to abandon a place at university in order to go to art school. As a student at Brighton

Polytechnic she began making body cushions, safin armpits, buttocks and thighs embroidered with human hair, contrasting idealisations of women's bodies with their physical reality. She then went on to study for an MA at Chelsea College of Art and Design.

Punks were beginning to stalk the King's Road at about that time, and their movement's anarchical interests dovetailed with her own. Chadwick made rubber casts of female bodies as fetishised ugly-erotic clothing and played with perceptions of women as domestic appli-

ances, strapping women's bodies inside sink units and washing machines.

There followed a period of more political work. *Model Institution* done at this time was an audio sculpture compiled of taped voices discussing unemployment. She pursued this theme when an "art in industry" award took her to Sheffield, where in a series of beer mats she tried to match up the advertising campaign of John Smith breweries with the rough reality of Yorkshire pub life.

However, documenting social situations and trying to delve under the surfaces of things instilled in Chadwick a strong desire to return to the exploration of her sense of self. It was from this instinct that her best-known works emerged. The Tate Gallery bought *Enfleshings* (1989), succulent photographs of raw steak evoking all the carnal allure of sex. In April 1995 Chadwick had her first solo show at the Museum of Modern Art in New York with her piece *Wealth to Pleasure*, in which the vivid blooms of flowers - roses, delphiniums and orchids - were floated on the lurid surfaces of domestic fluids - Windowlene, paint and hair-gel - in a mixing of the organic and the toxic.

In 1992 Chadwick made a film for the BBC about Frida Kahlo. She also wrote poems and lectured at the Chelsea College of Art and Design and the Royal College of Art. In the months before her death she was working on a series of microphotographs of human embryos intended to explore delicate issues of fertility. She is survived by her partner, David Notarius.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

A RUSSIAN OPERA

SHOSTAKOVITCH'S MUSIC

The *Lady Macbeth of Mtsensk* is a title well chosen to produce the utmost amount of misunderstanding and embarrassment to the English hearer of Dmitri Shostakovich's opera. He cannot allude to it lightly in dinner-table conversation for fear of mispronouncing "Mtsensk" and the name of *Lady Macbeth* suggests ideas with which the opera has nothing whatever to do. A concert performance such as the B.B.C. gave at Queen's Hall last night under the direction of Mr. Albert Coates puts a good many obstacles in the way of the hearer anxious to find out what it is about. Mr. Calvoressi, who had made the English translation of the text, tried to bring help by writing a synopsis of the plot scene by scene in the programme. But as the cast contains 23 characters who were represented by 17 solo singers it would have been more helpful if the synopsis had contained lists of the characters who take part in each scene with a little less descriptive writing and a little more suggestion of the actual course of the dialogue. Absurdity was an occasional relief to what a riotous orchestra had completely obliterated the singers, one of them was heard

ON THIS DAY

March 19, 1936

The performers in this concert version of Shostakovich's opera *The Lady Macbeth of Mtsensk* seemed to have had what can only be described as "a hard days night" to ask. "What's this all about?" and again, when a singer who for the last few minutes had vainly tried to make his voice heard across with the remark, "I'm tired," the audience sympathized only too heartily. With a stage presentation of the scene and the action would supply a great part of the necessary explanation, and take off the excessive prominence of the trite remarks which were audible. It would be absurd to attempt to judge the opera from what was heard last night. Mme. Slobodskaya sustained the part of Katerina as well as circumstances allowed, and they did allow her some moments of appealing expression in the love scenes. Mr. Purry Jones

TELEVISION NEXT SUMMER

LIMITED RANGE AT FIRST

SIR STEPHEN TALLENTS, Public Relations Officer to the B.B.C., at Sheffield yesterday, said that it was brought home in queer ways how widespread was the influence of broadcasting. "For example," he said, "a water engineer responsible for the supply to a town of 250,000 persons wrote to say how important broadcasts were reflected on the meter set on the outfall of his main reservoir. He quoted the marriage of the Duke and Duchess of Kent, the Royal funeral, and a Cup-tie as cases where the water supply dropped to almost nothing because no one was washing or cooking while the broadcast was on." The B.B.C. hoped to start the first television service next summer. Its range at that stage would be limited to 35 miles from Alexandra Palace.

Low intelligence irrelevant to duress claim

Regina v Bowen

Before Lord Justice Stuart-Smith, Mr Justice Buckley and Judge Hyam

[Judgment March 5] In relation to a defence of duress, a low intelligence quotient, short of mental impairment or mental defectiveness, was not a relevant characteristic since it did not make those who had it less courageous or less able to withstand threats and pressure than an ordinary person.

The Court of Appeal, Criminal Division, so held in a reserved judgment dismissing an appeal by Cecil Bowen against his conviction in August 1995 at Luton Crown Court (Judge Marshall and a jury) of five counts of obtaining services by deception for which he was sentenced to 18 months imprisonment concurrently on each count.

Miss Alison Levitt, assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals, for the appellant; Mr Peter Gribble for the prosecution.

LORD JUSTICE STUART-SMITH, delivering the judgment of the court, said that the charges related to the purchase of electrical goods on credit.

In giving evidence, the appellant accepted that he had obtained the goods on credit and had made few payments. He asserted that throughout the period he had acted under duress.

He had been accosted by two men in a public house who had threatened him that he and his family would be petrol-bombed if he did not obtain goods for them. He was told that if he went to the

police his family would be attacked.

On appeal, it was submitted by Miss Levitt, that the judge misdirected the jury in relation to the defence of duress. At the conclusion of the summing up, Judge Levitt submitted that the judge should have included in his direction on duress that the sober person of reasonable firmness was someone who shared the appellant's characteristics.

The judge accepted that he had used that expression but considered that he did not have to do so because in dealing with the objective test he had referred to the defendant's age and sex.

The classic statement of the law was to be found in R v Graham (1982) 1 WLR 304. The direction to the jury involved two objective tests: (i) was the defendant impelled to act as he did because he feared death or serious physical injury and (ii) if so, did the defendant respond as a sober person of reasonable firmness, sharing the characteristics of the defendant, would have done?

The formulation in Graham was approved by the House of Lords in R v Howe (1987) AC 473. But the question remained: what were the relevant characteristics of the accused to which the jury should have regard in considering the second objective test?

It seemed clear that age and sex, and physical health and disability might be relevant characteristics. Beyond that it was not altogether easy to determine from the authorities what others might be relevant.

Their Lordships thought that the principles of R v Emery (1993) 14 Cr App R (S) 394, R v Hargray (1994) Crim LR 323, R v Campbell (1997) AC 705, R v Horne (1994) Crim LR 384, R v Hurst (1995) 1 Cr App R 82 and R v Marshall (1996) 1 AC 90 were as follows:

1 The mere fact that the accused was more pliable, vulnerable, timid or susceptible to threats than a normal person did not make it legitimate to invest the reasonable/ordinary person with such characteristics for the purpose of considering the objective test.

2 The defendant might be in a category of persons whom the jury might think less able to resist pressure than people not within that category. Obvious examples were, age, where a young person might well not be so robust as a mature one; possibly sex, although many women would doubtless consider they had as much moral courage to resist pressure as men; pregnancy, where there was an added fear for the unborn child; serious physical disability, which might inhibit self-protection; recognised mental illness or psychiatric condition, such as post-traumatic stress disorder leading to extreme helplessness.

3 Characteristics which might be relevant in considering provocation, because they related to the nature of the provocation itself, would not necessarily be relevant in cases of duress. Thus homosexuality might be relevant to provocation if the provocative words or conduct were related to

that characteristic; it could not be relevant in duress, since there was no reason to think that homosexuals were less robust in resisting threats of the kind that were relevant in duress cases.

4 Characteristics due to self-imposed abuse, such as alcohol, drugs or glue-sniffing, could not be relevant.

5 Psychiatric evidence might be admissible to show that the accused was suffering from mental illness, mental impairment or recognised psychiatric condition provided persons generally suffering from such condition might be more susceptible to pressure and threats and thus to assist the jury in deciding whether a reasonable person suffering from such a condition might have been impelled to act as the defendant did.

It was not admissible simply to show that in the doctor's opinion an accused, who was not suffering from such an illness or condition, was especially timid, suggestible or unusually to pressure and threats; nor was medical opinion admissible to bolster or support the credibility of the accused.

6 Where counsel wished to submit that the accused had some characteristic which fell within 2 above, that had to be made plain to the jury.

The question might arise in relation to the admissibility of medical evidence of the nature set out in 5 above. If so, the judge would have to rule at that stage. There might, however, be no medical evidence or it might have been introduced for some other purpose, for example, to challenge

the admissibility or weight of a confession.

In such a case, counsel had to raise the question before speeches in the absence of the jury, so that the judge could rule whether the alleged characteristic was capable of being relevant. If he ruled that it was, then he had to leave it to the jury.

In the absence of some direction from the judge as to what characteristics were capable of being regarded as relevant, their Lordships thought the direction approved in Graham without more would not be as helpful as it might be, since the jury might be misled, especially if there was evidence, as there was in this case, relating to suggestibility and vulnerability, to think that those were relevant. In most cases it was probably only the age and sex of the accused that was capable of being relevant. If so, the judge should, as he did in this case, confine the characteristics in question to those.

How were those principles to be applied in this case? Miss Levitt accepted, rightly in their Lordships' opinion, that the evidence that the appellant was abnormally suggestible and a vulnerable individual was irrelevant.

But she submitted that the fact that he had, or might have had, a low IQ of 69 was relevant, since it might inhibit his ability to seek the protection of the police. Their Lordships did not agree. They did not see how low IQ, short of mental impairment or mental defectiveness, could be said to be a characteristic which made those who had it less courageous and less able to withstand threats and pressure.

The judge's direction had been sufficient. He directed the jury to consider the only two relevant characteristics, namely age and sex. It would not have assisted them, and might well have confused them, if he had added, without qualification, that the person of reasonable firmness was one who shared the characteristics of the appellant.

By dismissing the appeal would be dismissed.

Solicitors: Crown Prosecution Service, Luton.

Determining place of residence of child

Gateshead Metropolitan Borough Council v B

Before Mr Justice Wilson

[Reasons March 7] When a court was invited to make a care order and found that the child was not resident in the area of any local authority it had to give effect to the intention of section 3(8)(b) of the Children Act 1989 by including the word "ordinarily".

Mr Justice Wilson so stated in the Family Division when giving reasons for the making of a care order on March 4 in favour of Brent London Borough relating to a boy aged 14 years.

Section 31 of the 1989 Act provides: "(8) The local authority designated in a care order must be— (a) the authority within whose area the child is ordinarily resident; or (b) where the child does not reside in the area of a local authority, the authority within whose area any circumstances arise in consequence of which the order is being made."

Ms Mary Isles for Gateshead; Mr Richard Clough for Brent; Mr Roger Hayward Smith, QC, for the guardian ad litem.

MR JUSTICE WILSON said that the parties had agreed that a care order and a secure accommodation order should be made in respect of B, a boy aged 14. The dispute was which local authority should be designated.

B had been born in Brent in 1981 and had been placed on that authority's child protection register. In 1989, his mother with B and his sister had moved to Gateshead. That authority had made the children wards of court and had obtained a supervision order. The boy became very violent and had been accommodated by Gateshead in different units in various parts of the country.

B was now in a secure unit in Birmingham under interim orders. Those orders designated Gateshead under section 31 but without prejudice to the issue.

In 1992, the mother together with her daughter and two sons returned to Brent. B had never lived in Brent following his mother's return. He could not be "ordinarily resident" in Brent and lost his residence in Gateshead when his family moved.

Residence had to be for an appreciable period. The conclusion was that B was not resident in any local authority and therefore the court had to apply section 3(8)(b) of the 1989 Act.

It had to be noted that Parliament had not inserted "ordinarily" between "not" and "reside" in the phrase "where the child does not reside in the area of a local authority" in the subsection. That omission created an extraordinary situation in which persons who did not come within either part of the subsection.

B was ordinarily resident nowhere and had to be taken for the time being to be resident in Birmingham.

The effect of the omission of the word "ordinarily" was that every child who was resident but not ordinarily resident in the area of a local authority would, reading the subsection literally, fall within neither part. The omission could be a parliamentary slip. Section 20(2) of the Children and Young

Persons Act 1969 was the predecessor of the subsection under review. Section 70(1) of the 1969 Act had provided that "reside" meant "habitually reside". Since the decision in R v Barnet London Borough Council, Ex parte Shah (1982) 2 AC 309, ordinary residence had been synonymous.

Fortified by the decision of Lord Scarman in Stock v Frank Jones (Tipton) Ltd (1978) 1 WLR 231, 239 his Lordship would be bold and hold that the omission was accidental and also inflicted damage on the intention of the 1989 Act.

By construing the subsection as if the word "ordinarily" had been included all persons evaded.

The court could choose the local authority. Brent had accepted they should pay the costs of keeping B in secure accommodation. B's family lived in Brent. Brent would be designated rather than Gateshead. By so doing much bureaucratic expense would be eliminated.

Solicitors: Mr Leslie Elton, Gateshead; Mr Ian Steptoe, Wembley; Rowberry Morris, Reading.

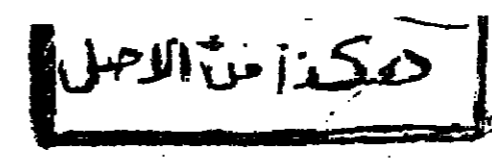
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Sculptor made copies in course of employment

Danowski and Another v The Henry Moore Foundation and Another

Before Lord Justice Nourse, Lord Justice McAuley and Lord Justice Thorpe

[Judgment March 7]

Ownership of copies of limited edition bronzes, known as "artist's copies", by Henry Spencer Moore between the time he entered into sale and service agreements with the company in 1977 and his death in 1986 passed to the company.

The copies were executed "in pursuance of his employment" by the company and the artist's copy convention did not apply so as to imply into the agreements an implied term that their ownership would remain with Mr Moore.

The Court of Appeal so held in reserved judgments dismissing an appeal by the plaintiffs, Mary Danowski, Henry Moore's daughter, and James Brodie, as executor and trustee of the will of Mr and Mrs Henry Moore, from the judgment of Mr Justice Evans-Lombe who in the Chancery Division in November 1993 had refused to declare that the copies belonged to the plaintiffs, ownership having passed to either of the defendants. The Henry Moore Foundation and HMF Enterprises Ltd.

Lord Irvine of Lairg, QC and Mr Jonathan Russen for the plaintiffs; Mr Sydney Kenridge, QC and Mr John Whitaker for the defendants.

LORD JUSTICE NOURSE said that in 1977, when Henry Moore was 78 years old, he gave his collection of his works to the foundation, a limited company and registered charity. A subsidiary company of the foundation, HMF Enterprises Ltd, was incorporated in June of that year.

Henry Moore's motivation for his actions was described by his daughter, Mrs Danowski, as a wish to protect his artistic legacy. He wanted to ensure that his work was preserved and his artistic

philosophy and exhibitions of his work to carry on after his death. His idea was that a family body, run by members of the family, would be the best means of realising his aspirations.

He entered into sale and service agreements with HMF Enterprises Ltd whereby he undertook not to "carry on the business of a sculptor for or on behalf of any person other than the company" and for the sole rights of copyright in any work "executed by Mr Moore in pursuance of his employment" to vest in the company.

The fortunes of the foundation prospered, building up assets valued in its 1993 accounts at over £8 million. But Mrs Danowski, an original trustee of the foundation became disenchanted with the control exercised by the professional advisers over the affairs of the foundation. She resigned as a trustee and with the death of her mother in 1989 her estrangement from the foundation became complete.

In May 1991 she and Mr Brodie, a solicitor, initiated the proceedings claiming that they and not the foundation or the company were the owners of the art that might be implied term that their ownership would remain with Mr Moore.

The Court of Appeal so held in reserved judgments dismissing an appeal by the plaintiffs, Mary Danowski, Henry Moore's daughter, and James Brodie, as executor and trustee of the will of Mr and Mrs Henry Moore, from the judgment of Mr Justice Evans-Lombe who in the Chancery Division in November 1993 had refused to declare that the copies belonged to the plaintiffs, ownership having passed to either of the defendants. The Henry Moore Foundation and HMF Enterprises Ltd.

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Henry Moore's motivation for his actions was described by his daughter, Mrs Danowski, as a wish to protect his artistic legacy. He wanted to ensure that his work was preserved and his artistic

must be taken to have contracted with reference to it, so that it became an implied term of the contract that ownership of the copies would remain with Mr Moore.

To support the first basis of his case, Lord Irvine submitted that an artist's copy made by Mr Moore after 1977 would have been "hors commerce", being traditionally not for resale and not forming part of the edition.

The submission was rejected. Looking only at the terms of the sale and service agreements, the copies were done in pursuance of Mr Moore's employment under the service agreement.

Thus everything depended on the application of the artist's copy convention as a general usage or custom of the art trade as between employer and employee. It was not enough to point to its application as between artist and purchaser.

The judge had held that the evidence did not justify a conclusion that such a custom or usage was to be imported into contracts of employment between employers and artists.

Moreover, in *Cunliffe-Owen v Teather & Greenwood* (1967) 1 WLR 1421, 1438, Mr Justice Ungood-Thomas had said that for a practice to amount to a recognised usage it must be "notorious, in the sense that it is so well known in the market in which it is alleged to exist, that it must be reasonable and that the burden of establishing that lay on those alleging it."

That statement of the law was correct. There was neither notoriety nor certainty in the present case. Moreover, the application of the convention as between employer and employee, even if established, would be inconsistent both with the express terms of the service agreement and with its tenor as a whole.

Lord Justice McAuley and Lord Justice Thorpe gave concurring judgments.

Solicitors: Frere Cholmeley Bischoff, McKenna & Co.

Scots Law Report March 19 1996 Outer House

Authorising sterilisation operation

L v B Curator ad litem

Before Lord MacLean

[Judgment February 22]

Where an autistic woman aged 32 had been on the combined contraceptive pill since the age of 13, in order to avoid pregnancy and menstruation, both of which it was thought would have a depressive effect upon her, but it was unhealthy for her to continue to take the pill and there was no other form of contraception that would prevent menstruation, it was necessary and in her best interests that she be surgically sterilised.

Lord MacLean, sitting in the Outer House of the Court of Session, so held, granting the prayer of a petition brought by L, the mother of I, a woman of 32, in which she sought appointment of a tutor ad litem to L, with power to consent to the surgical sterilisation of I. The court had previously appointed Mrs Helen Douglas, advocate, as curator ad litem to I, in order that her interests might be represented in the proceedings.

Mr John Wright for the mother; Mr Alan Mackenzie for the daughter's curator ad litem.

LORD MACLEAN said that I suffered from autism. Her mother had looked after her all her life and was now in advanced years. She accordingly sought appointment of a tutor with certain powers. The curator ad litem objected to the proposed power to consent to I's surgical sterilisation. The court has heard evidence from the petitioner, from I's social worker and general practitioner, the consultant gynaecologist and consultant psychiatrist who had had care of her, and from her curator.

Their evidence was to the effect that I suffered from a lack of imaginative activity, and from ritualistic and repetitive behaviour. She was unable to comprehend meaning and took everything literally. She might be academically bright but socially she was quite naive. No dialogue was possible with her.

She had improved until she was about 25 or 26 but since then she had regressed. In order to prevent both pregnancy and menstruation, she had been given the combined contraceptive pill since the age of 13. She would find menstruation very distressing and very difficult to cope with because she was very fastidious.

His Lordship had reached the clear and inescapable conclusion that, if at all possible, she should not be allowed to menstruate in the future. It was thought that pregnancy would have a disastrous effect upon her. She had had pregnancy and contraception explained to her but it was doubtful if she had understood. She had a serious mental handicap, suffering from Down's syndrome, with whom she would sometimes kiss and cuddle.

Evidence was also led of the increasing thrombo-embolic risk to a woman of taking the pill on into her mid-thirties. The medical evidence was that a change of regime was overdue.

This was the first case in which a request for power to consent to surgical sterilisation had been opposed. His Lordship agreed with the petitioner that the correct test here was whether the proposed sterilisation had had particular problems arising from her incapacity, was whether that measure was necessary and in her best interests: see *In re F (Mental Patient: Sterilisation)* (1990) 2 AC 1; *In re A (A Minor) (Wardship: Sterilisation)* (1988) AC 199.

It was apparent to his Lordship that the board had reached its decision not only for the stated reasons and also because of the fact that the incident had occurred shortly after the petitioner's release on licence.

It had had available a police report and, leaving aside the minor question of drug taking, which was not in issue, the close proximity between the date of the release and the date of the alleged offence, it could not in his Lordship's opinion be said that the board had not had adequate material upon which to conclude that there had been an unacceptable risk to the public if he were to be released before the date of the trial.

In challenging the reasonableness of a decision of the Parole Board which had serious, difficult and heavy responsibilities to discharge, a very strong case had to be made out before intervention by judicial review was justified.

Law agents: Brodies, WS; Solicitor to the Secretary of State for Scotland.

It was accepted that I would be unable to cope with pregnancy. She had probably never engaged in any sexual activity. On the other hand, the evidence suggested that she was suggestible, compliant and easily led. There was a risk that she would engage in sexual intercourse. While that risk might not be high, it was not a risk that could be taken. It was primarily for that reason that she had been receiving the combined contraceptive pill since 13.

She had now reached what her gynaecologist called the watershed in her life, when a decision had to be made about what contraceptive measure should be taken to replace the contraceptive pill.

His Lordship saw nothing to be gained by the suggestion from counsel for the curator that the decision should be postponed for a year or two. No contraceptive measure other than a sub-total hysterectomy would meet the additional need to avoid I menstruating. There were also other disadvantages associated with other measures because of her physical and psychological side effects.

His Lordship was clearly of the opinion, balancing all the considerations including the desirability of avoiding a major invasive surgical procedure if that could be, that the only way of fulfilling those twin needs which were in I's best interests, was by means of the proposed operation, namely subtotal or partial hysterectomy.

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Challenge to parole recall. McRae v Parole Board for Scotland. Before Lord Weir [Judgment February 22]. A heavy onus rested on a petitioner who sought judicial review of a decision of the Parole Board.

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Premiership top scorer shows his £10m price-tag still represents good value

Shearer hat-trick proves buyers were not fleeced

Hands up all Interactive Team Football (ITF) managers who are feeling smug at the moment. Of those, hands up who picked Alan Shearer as their main striker. No wonder you feel smug. Another hat-trick on Saturday, his fifth of the season to bring his tally to 34 goals, and another seven points in the bag. Shearer now has 86 points and is doing his ITF managers proud.

There are few who would argue with Shearer's goal-scoring talents, but the big question at the start of the season was whether he was worth £10 million. Jack Walker may have had a bottomless well of money with which to build his team but, in ITF, the limit is £35 million and it does not go very far once you have shelled out nearly a third of it for one player, the most expensive in ITF.

Shearer is one of a very rare breed in football — a betting certainty. There are few safer places to put your faith or your money. Regardless of Blackburn's miserable start to the season, Shearer was scoring goals. He did it at home, he did it away. Blackburn may not have won the game, but Shearer hit the target. In ITF, that was all that mattered, provided, of course, that you had not picked Ray Harford as your manager.

When it comes to strikers, you have to speculate to accumulate: cheap goalscorers are as rare as hen's teeth. Compared with Shearer, Robbie Fowler looks a positive bargain at £8 million, and while Shearer may have been ahead in the goal count, Fowler has been leading the way in the ITF points rankings. Just as in the FA Carling Premiership, the race for the honours has been whittled down to just three possible contenders, and, while Newcastle United may be on the verge of their first title under Kevin Keegan, Ferdinand, the top scorer, is still 16 points behind Blackburn and Liverpool's finest in ITF.

For the most part, the strikers have been earning their corn. They may have cost a lot, but they are living up to their price-tag.



IN ASSOCIATION WITH



If your team could be doing better, with your players lacking form and fitness, you can move into the transfer market to improve your fortunes. ITF has a transfer system that allows you to change up to two players each week. Which player you want to offload is up to you, although you must replace the outgoing player with one from the same category and keep within your £35 million budget.

The ITF transfer system also allows you to adjust your team if one of your players is actually transferred out of the Premiership.

You can make transfers only by telephone. Using a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-tone), call the 0891 333 331 line during the times given. Calls will be charged at 39 pence per minute cheap rate, 49 pence per minute at other times. If you are calling from Ireland, you must call 004 499 020 0631 and you will be charged at 58 pence per minute at all times.

When making a transfer, you must ensure that the team value still falls within your £35 million budget and does not contain more than two individuals (two players or one player and a manager) from the same club.

If you are lagging behind the leading team selectors, the transfer system will be an appealing option to you in the chase for the £50,000 prize or the monthly £300 prizes.

With ITF, not only are you pitting your selectorial skills against other readers of *The Times*, but also you are matching your wits against those in the know. With the support of the Professional Footballers' Association, Premiership players have entered sides of their own, and Brian Borrows, of Coventry City, gives his selection on the opposite page. Like him, you may spend £6 million on Teddy Sheringham — but will he do better than cheaper alternatives?

All matches in the Premiership and those in the FA Cup involving Premiership clubs count and your players and manager win and lose you points. With Kevin Kickers still in the lead, is it time for you to delve into the transfer market?

All transfer queries regarding Interactive Team Football should be directed to 0171 757 7016. All other inquiries can be made on 01582 498 122.



Shearer's fifth hat-trick of the season brought his goal tally to 34 and his score in ITF to an impressive 86 points

Code	Player	Club	Value
31293	J Newson	Sheff Wed	£2.5m
50306	S Howe	Nottn Forest	£0.75m
50306	P McGregor	Nottn Forest	£1.0m
Code	Player	Club	Value
42004	R Sheeks	Bolton	£1.5m

Position	Points Scored	Points Deducted
Goalkeeper	4pts	Goalkeeper conceded goal
Keeps clean sheet	3pts	Concedes own goal
Scores goal	3pts	Full back/central defender
Keeps clean sheet	3pts	Keeps clean sheet
Scores goal	3pts	Midfield player
Keeps clean sheet	1pt	Keeps clean sheet
Scores goal	2pts	Scores goal
Striker	2pts	Striker
Scores goal	2pts	Striker
All players	1pt	Apparatus
Manager	1pt	Manager
Team wins	3pts	Team wins
Team draws	3pts	Team draws
Team loses	1pt	Team loses

HOW TO MAKE A TRANSFER IN ITF

Call 0891 333 331

Call cost (per minute) 39p cheap rate, 49p other times, Reg. 58p

If calling from the Republic of Ireland, call 004 499 020 0631

You can make transfers only by telephone using a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-tone). You will need your ten-digit selector's PIN, which must be typed in and not spoken. Follow the simple instructions and use the players' five-digit codes.

The line is open from 6pm on Tuesday until 11pm on Saturday; from 6pm on Saturday to 11pm on Sunday and from 6pm on Monday until 11pm on Monday. If there are midweek matches, the line will also close at 6pm on the day of the match (or matches) and re-open the following day at 6pm.

You may make up to (but not more than) two transfers a week. Each transfer is a separate transaction and you must call a player before you can buy one.

A player transferred out of your team must be replaced by a player from the same category — for example a full back for a full back.

When purchasing a player you must ensure that the team value still falls within your £35 million budget (even if your new transfer would result in over-spending) and does not contain more than two individuals (two players or one player and a manager) from the same club.

Your new player only starts to score points for you when his transfer is registered. The score of the player transferred out is taken at the time of transfer; he then ceases to score for you.

THE LEADING 250 SELECTORS IN INTERACTIVE TEAM FOOTBALL

Pos	Team	(Player's name)	Pts
1	Jones Kickers	(K James)	598
2	Jones Boys 65	(M Jones)	580
3	Golth's Gods	(Mr B Gohl)	567
4	Snort And Stubbs	(K Booth)	542
5	Jones Boys Four	(L Jones)	538
6	Laytons Lions	(Mr R Layton)	537
7	Langston Longshots	(J Ward)	536
8	Kingspaire Five	(E Kirby)	536
9	Stevens Lions 6	(S Brewer)	536
9	Sharon's Slads	(Mr D Conroy)	536
9	Fair Fair Fustlers	(C Woodward)	535
9	Apollo 2	(S Lazaridis)	535
13	Teddy Five	(Mr B Bare)	534
14	Playboy And Smither	(K Booth)	533
15	Shrews Yeats	(H Bradley)	531
16	Barnwell United	(R Barnham)	529
17	Nigella Right Foot	(Mr D Patel)	527
18	KP Fantasy Team 4	(K Patel)	525
18	Tommy Cockles XI	(Mr P Johnson)	525
18	Jessicas Darlings 4	(Mr A Nadison)	525
21	Percys Progress	(M Porisch)	524
22	Nirvana FC	(Mr J Donovan)	522
23	Nobby One	(A Brown)	521
24	Estuary	(Mr P Giles)	518
24	Dwayns Dribblers	(J Nicholl)	518
24	County Five A	(A Philcox)	518
27	Stevens Lions 5	(J Hunt)	516
27	Turners Earners	(P Turner)	514
29	The Likely Lads	(G Poddar)	514
29	Justintime	(A Kent)	514
32	Tony's All Stars	(A Boyland)	513
33	Roaches Supers	(P Sutton)	512
34	Purple Santitowers	(N Rickards)	510
34	Aldrie	(Mr A Ford)	510
36	Nobby Nat	(A Brown)	509
36	The Good Bad & Ugly	(K Booth)	509
36	Pursell Rangers	(F Macdonald Pursell)	508
39	Turners Earners 2	(P Turner)	507
39	Jessand 1860	(S Murray)	507
39	The Wee One Too	(A Nelson)	507
39	Stevens Lions 1	(S Brewer)	507
39	Cameron Athos	(Mr J Reader)	507
39	Adams Man Or God 4	(R Pike)	507
39	Bert Trautmann XI	(M Podour)	507
39	Bartle Thistles	(C Nicol)	507
47	Paron United	(Mr A Hewitt)	506
47	Monster Monstar	(M Parish)	506
47	Ormy Stars	(D Gornall)	506
48	Nats Lions	(N Brewer)	505
48	Doug's Desperados	(Mr D Richardson)	505
48	Reggie's Reds	(Mr J Bridge)	505
53	Woodsbill Unit 3	(D T Smith)	504
53	Committing Eleven	(S Evans)	504
53	The Living Dead	(T Stockin)	504
53	Burnzy's Babes	(T Burns)	504
57	Stevens Lions 3	(S Brewer)	503
57	Marsh Pass	(Mr M McGovern)	502
57	Jaggy Thistle	(J Bruce)	502
58	Strangers	(Mr G Brakes)	502
58	Eggs N'ham	(Mr D Warner)	502
58	Sensible City	(G Cole)	502
58	Wolnoshearer	(K Booth)	502
58	Jordans XI	(P Barnard)	501
58	The Mind Boogies	(Mr P McDowell)	501
65	Hastoe Rovers	(P Bernion)	501
65	Vestivo	(G Batchelor)	501
65	Sans All Stars	(J Allen)	501
65	A	(M Corless)	500

FIND OUT HOW YOUR TEAM IS DOING

Call the ITF checkline on 0891 774 796

Check your points total and your ranking. You need a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-tone) and your ten-digit selector's PIN. The line is open from noon today.

112	A Total Flop	(D Thandi)	488
112	The Mighty Danston	(D Daniels)	488
112	DDR 2	(M Corless)	488
112	Wallace A Grouit FC	(Mr S Hyams)	488
112	Journeymen	(A Jordan)	488
112	Tor's Tormentors	(B Torr)	488
118	Wimps Utd	(A Heath)	487
118	Long Drive	(I Parker)	487
118	Wannabe Stars	(A P Harris)	487
118	No Sam Today	(N Webb)	487
118	The Rainbow Connection	(G Weiss)	487
123	JRFC 2	(J Roll)	486
123	Soul Utd	(R Scofield)	486
123	Andy's Elites	(A Poole)	486
123	Old Turf	(Mr J Ruffin)	486
123	Noble Rangers	(Mr A G W Whyte)	486
123	The Magicians	(A Coughlin)	486
123	Nadar	(Mr A Newiszky)	486
123	Jacobooke FC	(Mr A P Jacobooke)	486
123	Andrew's Alstars	(Mr A Suggitt)	486
123	Razor's Raiders	(R A Knowles)	486
123	Divas Lisbon Lions	(D Strachan)	486
123	Bulls Around Les	(D Scudler)	486
123	110 Percent	(M C Chubbain)	486
123	Fergies Fury	(P Simpson)	486
123	Goal Diggers	(C Stacey)	486
123	The Socks	(I Aidous)	486
123	Eddie's Eagles	(E Woods)	486
123	Stuffs Golden Plays	(G Sullivan)	486
123	S Express FC	(S O'Toole)	486
123	Evans Man	(W Doyle)	486
123	Gibbins Terry Mark	(T Gibbins)	486
123	Wildbeest	(Mr J Albertson)	486
123	Dun Elm Saints	(J Doyle)	486
123	Joe Royle's Wink 3	(T Gernage)	486
123	Orbital Brushes	(Mr S Broome)	486
123	Pig In A Poke	(Mr J Walters)	486
123	Benny Army	(J P Barry)	486
123	The Dirty Team	(C Funnell)	486
123	West Ham Alliance	(R Coakley)	486
123	Esperanto Park	(D Rhodes)	486
123	Kespara Two	(E J Kirby)	486
123	Red Star Richmond	(St Gardner)	486
123	The Black Knights	(R A Green)	486
123	DM 002	(D McGregor)	486
123	Demon Stones FC	(P McCauley)	486
123	Stigwig Utd	(S Gorse)	486
123	The Doug Hutchies	(M Stacey)	486
123	Absequeway Rovers	(M Lovell)	486
123	Joe Royle's Wink 2	(C Smith)	486
123	Real Madras FC 2nd	(T Gernage)	486
123	Kespara Three	(P Bradley)	486
123	Racing Club Harwal	(E J Kirby)	486
123	Donnay's Dream	(G Williams)	486
123	Aberbury Villa	(J S Dhesal)	486
123	Steve's Soorars	(S Tinkler)	486
123	JK's Dolphins	(N Thompson)	486
123	The Dirty Dreamers	(J P Kishan)	486
123	Don't Make Me Laugh	(R V Smith)	486
123	Stank City	(F Collett)	486
123	Partizan Beograd I	(M Franke)	486
123		(Mr D Stojkovic)	486
174	I Hate Football	(E Lam)	479
183	Only Can Server	(M McCaown)	478
183	Fascous City	(J Sanderson)	478
183	Black XI	(M Lawrence)	478
183	Goals Guaranteed	(B Gordon)	478
183	Meltdown	(N Hartley)	478
183	The Gentleman	(D Grassick)	478
183	C	(M Corless)	478
183	County Pine L	(J Hunt)	477
183	Wells S Wonder	(A Wells)	477
183	Headless Chickens	(R Norton)	477
183	Boyd's Bombers	(M Boyd)	477
183	Sadasm F	(D Mulholland)	477
183	Northern Neashers	(P Sansom)	477
183	Bon Accord	(J Nelson)	477
183	Hells Angels	(H Thompson)	476
183	Nanou	(G Bahdijan)	476
183	Aberpurs	(G Shand)	476
183	New Babes Eleven	(Mr I Gochin)	476
183	Acillies Heel	(M Kautas)	476
183	Bello Boys	(C Trinson)	476
183	Bill's Best Pirates	(D Sullivan)	476
183	Wheatgoal Utd	(A Hughes)	476
183	Seldom United	(Mr T Armitage)	476
183	Poundwick Pupils	(J Plattler)	476
183	Overhill Rovers	(Mr M James)	476
183	Shrewbury Dynamo	(D East)	476
183	Headstart	(G Sutton)	475
183	Kims Kickers	(S Adams)	475
183	The Select Few	(S Davison)	475
183	Sesacpa FC 4	(S Adams)	475
183	Adams Man Or God 1	(R Pike)	475
183	The Unsubscribes	(Mr V Beahere)	475
183	The Mids Fildes	(R J Darwell)	475
183	Partick Thistle 4	(C Nicol)	475
183	Strat FC	(S Bartlett)	474
183	Boldram United	(P Middlewell)	474
183	Enfield Reserves	(N Cantwell)	474
183	Tanners United	(N Lano)	474
183	St Remy Strikers	(G Dabnor)	474
183	Mens Mates 20	(Mr M Hild)	474
183	Warborough Green 5	(J Richardson)	474
183	Richardsons Rubies	(J Whistley)	474
183	Rueful Rabbits	(J Hunt)	473
183	County Pine O	(J Hunt)	473
183	Sijou	(M Minasian)	473
183	Niall's Boys	(N Duffin)	473
183	Northbank Cardigan	(S Smith)	473
183	Fulham Second XI	(Mr K Browne)	473
183	Dublin Bohemians	(G Brannigan)	473
183	Rochpaul Utd	(Mr Rm Thomas)	473
183	The Rockers	(N Wheatley)	473
183	Dour Rangers	(Mr J Clayton)	473
183	APD FC	(P Dowling)	473
183	Upzun	(S Kavanagh)	472
183	Nutrofen Utd II	(W Warner)	472
183	Yarn XI	(J Rogers)	472
183	Clean Sheet XI	(Mr J Sanderson-Smith)	472
183	Massive Attack	(R Sanderson)	472
183	John Benavys Donner	(Mr J Parkinson)	472
183	Lewsey Farm	(R Conway)	472
183	Death Or Glory	(A T Davies)	472
183	Foots XI	(P Tutwell)	472
183	Randy Rovers	(P Phillips)	472
183	Moneybags United	(F Ethridge)	472
183	Well Safe	(A Costello)	472

The players' weekly and overall scores and their values if you are considering the transfer option

Table with columns: Code, Name, Team, £m, Pts, Wk, Ov. Lists player statistics for various teams like Blackburn Rovers, Manchester United, etc.

Table with columns: Code, Name, Team, £m, Pts, Wk, Ov. Continuation of player statistics from the previous table.

Table with columns: Code, Name, Team, £m, Pts, Wk, Ov. Continuation of player statistics from the previous table.



Borrows has one ambition for his ITF team: to stay ahead of the side picked by Steve Ogrizovic in the PFA league

Borrows in debt to Villa

I DID NOT really have much faith in my Interactive Team Football (ITF) selection - I called it Quango United because...

Brian Borrows, a central defender for Coventry City, talks about his ITF team

Ferdinand role after Les went to Newcastle, but he has not played as much as I would have liked and he certainly has not scored as many goals as I wanted.

In defence, I went for two Everton players in Earl Barrett and Dave Watson. Under Joe Royle, Everton have had a good defensive record, but my plan backfired because Barrett has been injured and has made only four points for the team.

BORROWS'S TEAM

Table listing the player selections for Brian Borrows's ITF team, including positions like Goalkeeper, Full back, Centre back, etc., and player names like M Borsnich, E Barrett, etc.

Sheffield Wednesday. I picked him in the hope that he might score a couple of goals so far, he has only cost me points.

The midfield was picked with goals in mind. Roy Keane, Mark Draper and David Platt can all score goals and Andy Impey creates a lot. Queens Park Rangers have not been having a good time but Impey is still a very good player.

BORROWS'S TEAM

Table listing the player selections for Brian Borrows's ITF team, including positions like Goalkeeper, Full back, Centre back, etc., and player names like M Borsnich, E Barrett, etc.

Table with columns: Code, Name, Team, £m, Pts, Wk, Ov. Lists player statistics for various teams like West Ham United, Coventry City, etc.

Table with columns: Code, Name, Team, £m, Pts, Wk, Ov. Continuation of player statistics from the previous table.

Table with columns: Code, Name, Team, £m, Pts, Wk, Ov. Continuation of player statistics from the previous table.

NEWS

New gun law within months

Tighter controls on the licensing of handguns are expected to be in force within months in the wake of the Dunblane tragedy and fresh concerns about a runaway schoolboy alleged to have stolen rifles and pistols from a pensioner's home.

Mandela tells court of his loneliness

Nelson Mandela told his divorce hearing that he had been "the loneliest man" after his release from prison. South Africa's 77-year-old President said that he was determined to rid himself of a woman who had caused him embarrassment through her infidelities.

Water crisis

Yorkshire Water considered evacuating almost a million people from the Bradford area as their taps threatened to run dry during last summer's drought, an inquiry was told.

Beef war threat

A "beef war" was threatened over growth hormones pitting America against Europe after European Union ministers toughened controls on imports.

Dunblane request

The world's media withdrew from Dunblane after relatives asked to be left to bury their dead in peace.

Officer in court

A Royal Navy commander described as a natural leader and a man of vision, was addicted to gambling and stole money to meet debts of £20,000, a court martial was told.

West appeal

Rosemary West was convicted on "tenuous and non-existent" evidence, when the facts suggested that her husband Frederick was solely responsible, the Court of Appeal was told.

Television block

An investigation into proposals to fit all new television sets with electronic scramblers to block violent or sexually explicit programmes has been ordered by Virginia Bottomley.

The rising tide of down-under talk

Young Britons are adopting a pattern of speech that makes them sound more like Australians. Their tone of voice rises towards the end of a sentence, as if an unanswered question were left hanging.

Cervical smear cuts

Up to one in five cervical smear laboratories faces closure or merger under measures to improve the accuracy of the screening programme.

Unique rock

A bright blue rock bought for a few pounds at a roadside stall in Morocco is unlike anything known to science, according to experts at the Natural History Museum in London.

Feeble victory

President Mugabe of Zimbabwe was heading for a predictably secure victory in the presidential elections. But it was the poorest turnout of voters since he came to power 16 years ago.

Island evacuations

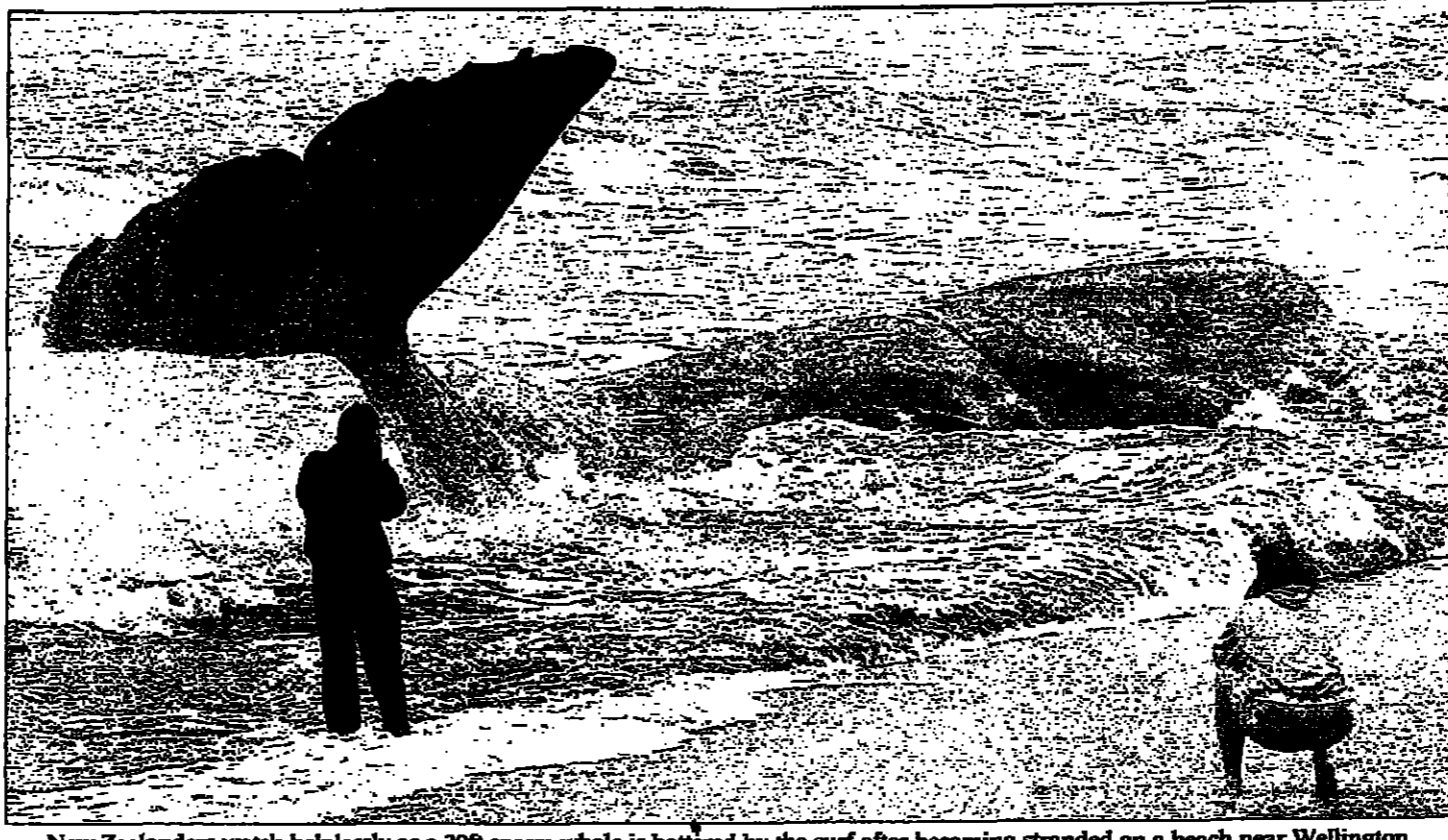
China and Taiwan moved residents from offshore islands where Peking planned land, sea and air exercises.

Yeltsin bounces back

President Yeltsin is emerging as the only candidate with a hope of beating the Communists in the presidential elections in June. Opinion polls say he has improved his standing.

Chasing storms

Tucson, Arizona, the lightning capital of America, was the setting for the world's first convention of storm-chasers. They prefer to call themselves "severe weather interceptors".



New Zealanders watch helplessly as a 30ft sperm whale is battered by the surf after becoming stranded on a beach near Wellington

BUSINESS

Building societies: Predators on the look-out to boost their corporate expansion plans will be thwarted by legislation to protect societies that wish to retain their mutual status.

GEC: Britain's biggest manufacturer, has confirmed its intention to appoint George Simpson, the chief executive of Lucas Industries, as managing director.

Harvey Nichols: The store is to be partially floated on the London Stock Exchange by way of a placing that could raise up to £80 million.

Markets: The FT-SE 100 gained 24.8 to 3,669.6. Sterling climbed from 83.4 to 83.6 after a rise from \$1.5237 to \$1.5310 and from DM2.2493 to DM2.2578.

SPORT

Boxing: Frank Bruno says that he needs a couple of weeks to consider his options after his defeat in three rounds by Mike Tyson in Las Vegas.

Cricket: The abiding memory of the sixth World Cup will not be of cricket but of the money-making obsession that relegated the game to a fairground.

Rugby union: If Europe's leading clubs do not get their own way with plans for an enhanced European Cup, they are likely to run their own competition independently of their governing bodies.

Football: Nottingham Forest, who trail 2-1 after the first leg of the UEFA Cup quarter-final against Bayern Munich, will need full power if they are to progress.

ARTS

Unsung hero: Joe Ely may have a relatively small following, writes David Sinclair, but he is one of the most talented country-rock performers.

Byronic man: Turin audiences are enjoying the production of Verdi's "Byron" opera, *Il corsaro*, destined for Covent Garden until it proved too expensive.

Pond life: At the National Theatre a production of *The Frogs* only splashed around in the shallows of Aristophanes's comedy.

Wall on wall: Jeff Wall's harrowing photographic tableaux, notably of soldiers in battle, have gone on show at the Whitechapel Gallery.

FEATURES

Net for needs: The future is not wired and a virtual chat-up will never replace the real thing, says Janet Street-Porter.

Frankly speaking: What next for Bruno? Giles Coren comes up with some job positions.

BODY AND MIND

Get the message: Magnus Linklater spends a day at a health farm and finds it isn't just his body that gets pummelled.

Controlling TB: Rates are rising in Britain due to a return in older people, HIV and immigration from the Third World, reports Dr Thomas Stuttaford.

LAW

Mothers and madness: In the light of the Caroline Beale case is there barbaric or enlightened to grant demerency to a mother who kills her baby?

TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES
INTERFACE
In our guide to new technology: Legoland, where controlling computerised dinosaurs is child's play
PLUS...
Simon Jenkins, Nigella Lawson, and Iain R. Webb in Paris

TV LISTINGS
Preview: From the Brookside stable comes a drama of sex and class in 1960 Liverpool. And the Beat Goes On (Channel 4, 10pm) Review: Matthew Bond on good news from Martyn Lewis.

OPINION
The Taiwan truth
China's intimidation of Taiwan breaches the law of the sea, violates three Chinese-US agreements to pursue its "one China" policy by peaceful means alone and amounts, under the American Taiwan Relations Act, to "a threat to the peace and security of the Western Pacific area".

Chip in the box
In America and Britain, a new consensus is emerging: violence on TV and films is degrading. But is the "V-chip" the answer?
Victory most sweet
It should not be beyond the abilities of even the TCCB to find a way of accommodating the Sri Lankan side somewhere in the proximate English cricket calendar.

COLUMN
LIBBY PURVES
Five-years-old is an age that learns fast, absorbs deeply, and questions life with a serious awakening moral sense. Nowhere else do you find that combination of clear vision, considerable reasoning ability and utter inexperience.

SIMON BROADBENT
An international lottery, similar to national lotteries but run for the UN, would give the UN resources without undermining national tax revenues; it would be voluntary, and it could get America off a humiliating hook by removing the annual funding wrangle.

ANATOLE KALETSKY
In an era when governments have reached the limits of their ability to raise taxes, politicians will increasingly turn to regulation to influence our lives.

Dunblane: Radio 1; genocide; sentencing: rural business; English syllabus; no smoking day.

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,119

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-25 and 10-23.

ACROSS
1 So little point in this intelligence message! (8).
5 Floppy disk work in dusty environment? (6).
8 Assisted me to distribute coffee cups (10).
9 He split an apple and peach (4).
10 Board game to push change no longer (5-9).
11 Letter reproduced in elite, with PS (7).
13 Pick up and report rumour (7).
15 Introduction of umpire in March (7).
18 Old hat of chief, and superb cape (7).
21 This, from Latin, is smart? No, badly done (14).
22 Money taken from chapel funds (4).

WEATHERCALL

Table with 3 columns: Region, Forecast, and Notes. Includes Greater London, West Country, etc.

AA ROADWATCH

Table with 3 columns: Road Number, Location, and Status. Includes M1, M5, M6, etc.

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Table with 3 columns: Location, Highest Temp, and Lowest Temp. Includes Jersey, Cornwall, etc.

FORECAST

General: England and Wales will be mostly dry but rather cloudy. Overnight fog should clear during the morning, with the chance of sunny intervals developing later.

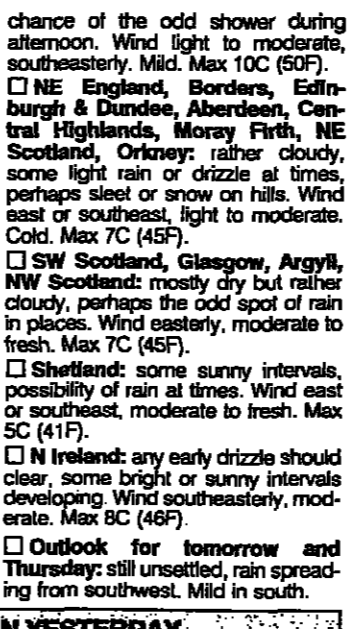
AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

Table with 4 columns: Location, Sun, Rain, Wind, and Cloud. Includes Aberdeen, London, etc.

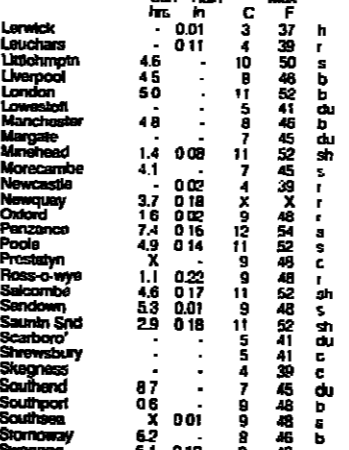
ABROAD

Table with 4 columns: Location, Sun, Rain, and Temp. Includes Alajuela, London, etc.

NOON TODAY



CHANGES TO THE CHART



HIGH TIDES

Table with 4 columns: Location, AM, HT, PM, and TODAY. Includes London Bridge, Aberdeen, etc.

Large weather and tide information section including maps, tide tables, and a barcode.

Vertical advertisements on the right margin including 'AUDIO LIBRARY OFFER', 'Lloyd's name secure £200m', and 'The Times on the Internet'.